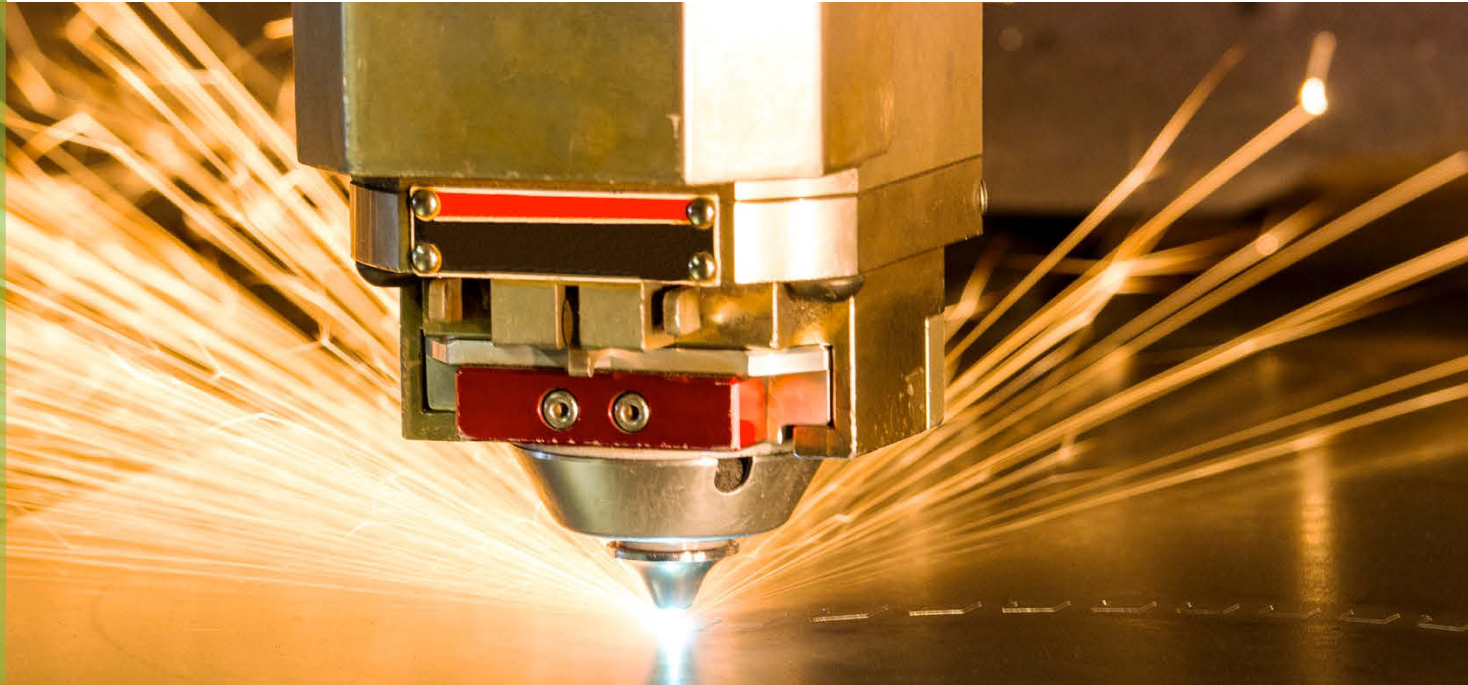


# Manufacturing Competitiveness Analysis for PEM and Alkaline Water Electrolysis Systems



**Mark Ruth (Presenter), Ahmad Mayyas, and  
Maggie Mann**

National Renewable Energy Laboratory  
Fuel Cell Seminar and Energy Expo

11/08/2017

# Agenda



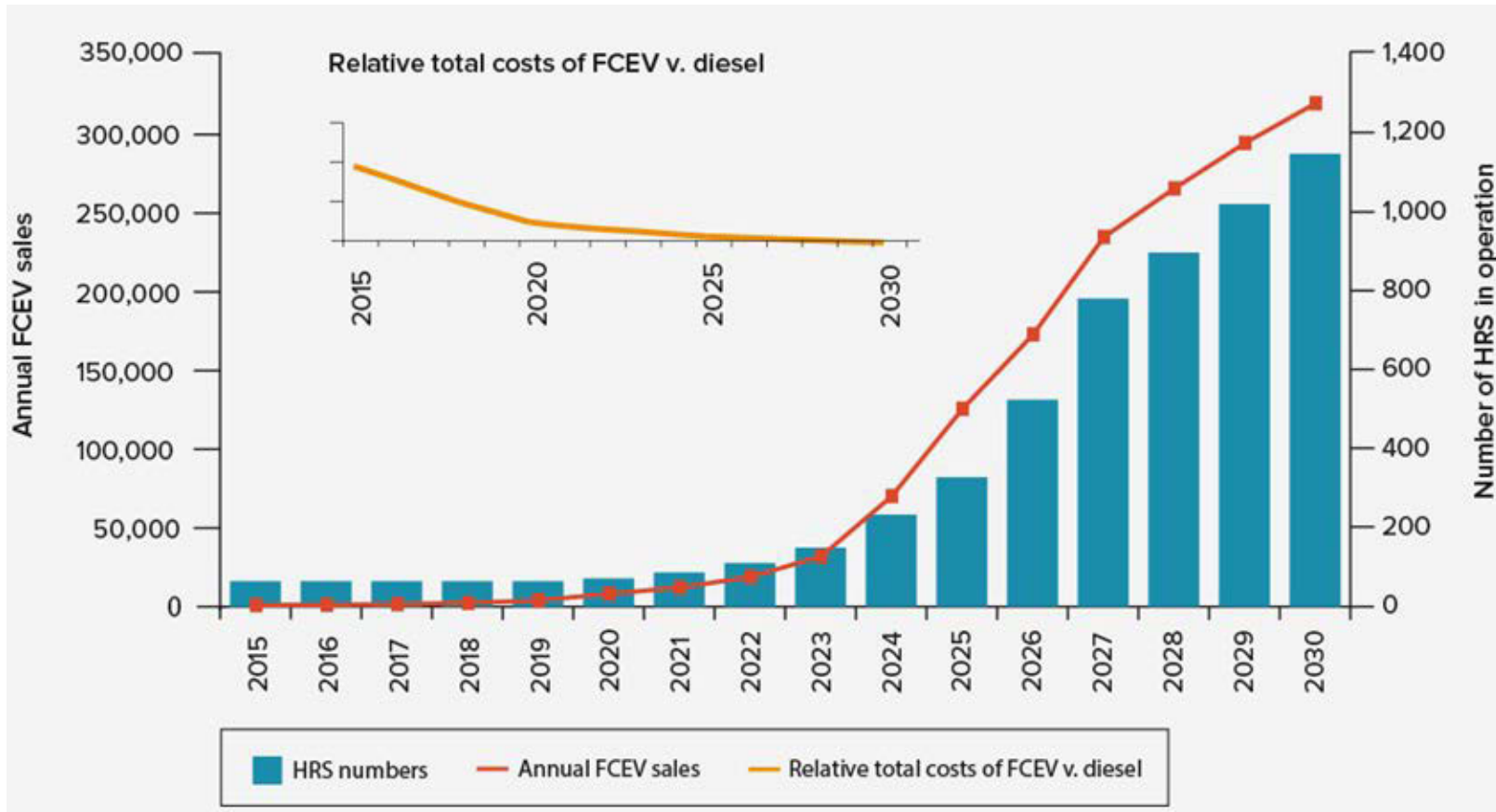
- I. Introduction
- II. PEM Electrolyzer - Functional Specs & System Design
- III. Alkaline - Functional Specs & System Design
- IV. Cost Analysis for PEM and Alkaline Electrolyzer
- V. Concluding Remarks



I

## Introduction

# Motivation: Infrastructure for Vehicles



- 2020 sales/production estimate >30,000 FCEVs
- 2030 sales/production estimates >250,000 FCEVs ~~on roads~~
- Is hydrogen infrastructure ready to support this number of FCEVs?

Source: Ukh2Mobility

# Comparison between PEM and Alkaline Electrolyzers



Characteristics	Alkaline	PEM	Unit	Notes
Current Density	0.2 - 0.7	1.0 - 2.2	A/cm <sup>2</sup>	
Operating Temperature	60 – 80	50 – 84	°C	
Electricity Consumption (Median)	50 – 73 (53)	47 – 73 (52)	kWh/kg-H <sub>2</sub>	Electrolysis system only. Excluding storage, compression and dispensing
Min. Load	20 - 40%	3 – 10%		
Startup Time from Cold to Min. Load	20 min - 60+	5 – 15	minutes	
System Efficiency (LHV) (Median)	45-67% (63%)	45 – 71% (63%)		
System Lifetime (Median)	20-30 (26)	10-30 (22)	Year	
System Price	\$760 – \$1,100 (\$930)	\$1,200-\$1,940 (\$1,570)		Including power supply, system control and gas drying. Excluding grid connection, external compression, external purification and H <sub>2</sub> storage

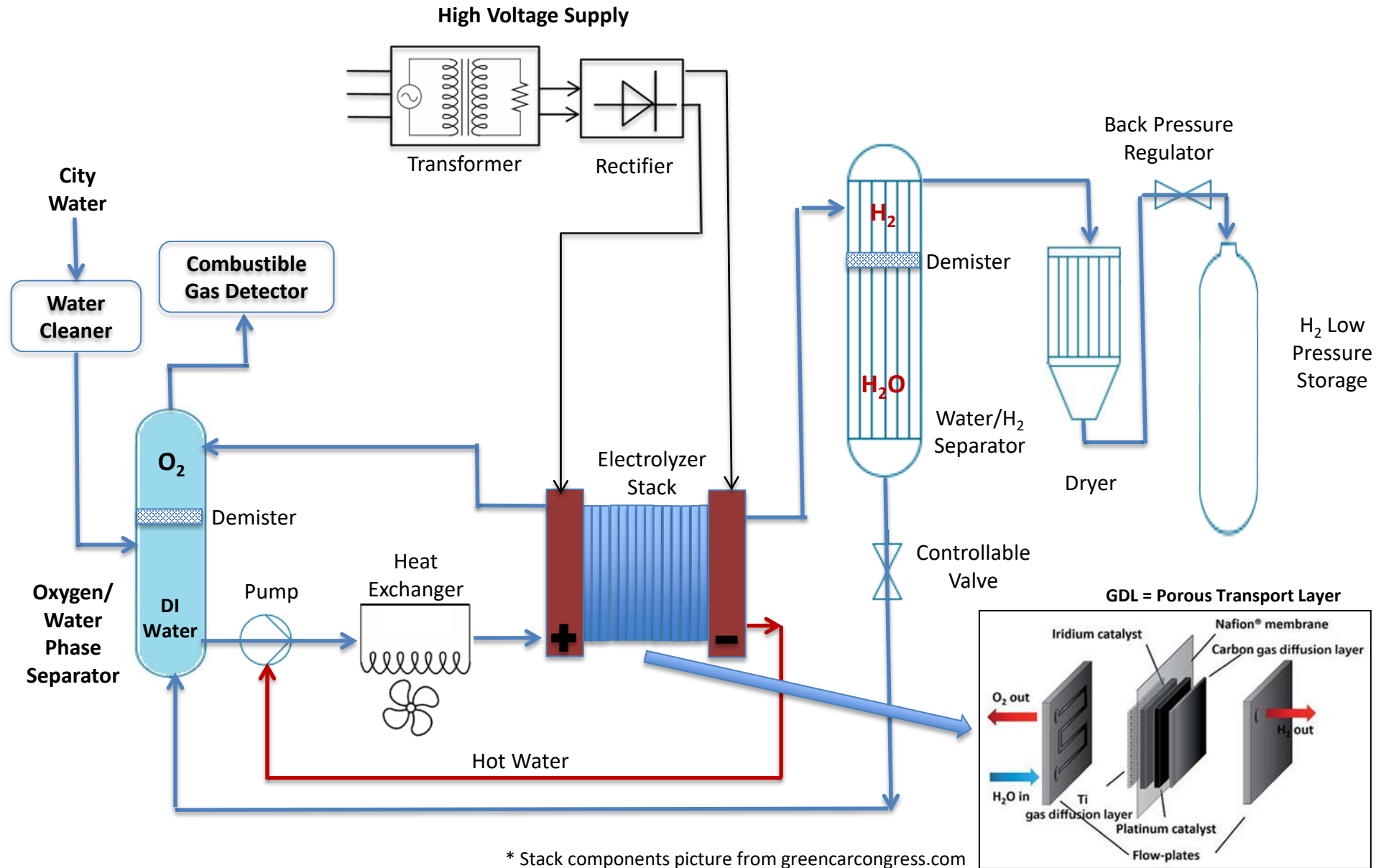
Sources of data: Bertuccioli et al., 2014, NREL 2017



||

## PEM Electrolyzer - Functional Specs & System Design

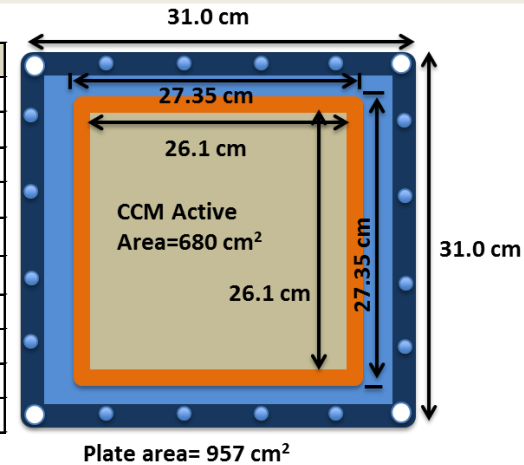
# PEM Electrolyzer System Design



\* Stack components picture from greencarcongress.com

# Derived Functional Specifications

Stack Power	10	20	50	100	200	500	1,000	2,000	5,000	10,000	kW
single cell amps	1224										A
current density	1.80										A/cm <sup>2</sup>
reference voltage	1.619										V
power density	2.913										W/cm <sup>2</sup>
Pt-Ir loading- Anode	7.0										g/m <sup>2</sup>
PGM loading Cathode	4.0										g/m <sup>2</sup>
single cell power	1981.0										W
Cells per system	5	10	25	50	101	252	505	1010	2524	5048	cells
stacks per system	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	4	10	20	stacks
cells per stack	5	10	25	50	101	252	252	252	252	252	cells



Part	Assumptions	Notes
Membrane	Nafion 117 (Purchased)	PFSA (PEEK, PBI)
Pt	Pt-price= 1500/tr.oz	DOE Current value
CCM	Spray Coating	Platinum loadings: Anode= 7g/m <sup>2</sup> (Pt) Cathode= 4g/m <sup>2</sup> (Pt-Ir)
Porous Transport Layer	Sintered porous titanium Ti-price= \$4.5/kg	Porosity=30%
Seal/Frame	Screen printed PPS-40GF or PEEK seal	Seal: 0.635 cm from each side for MEA bonding
Plates	Stainless steel 316L	Coated (plasma Nitriding)

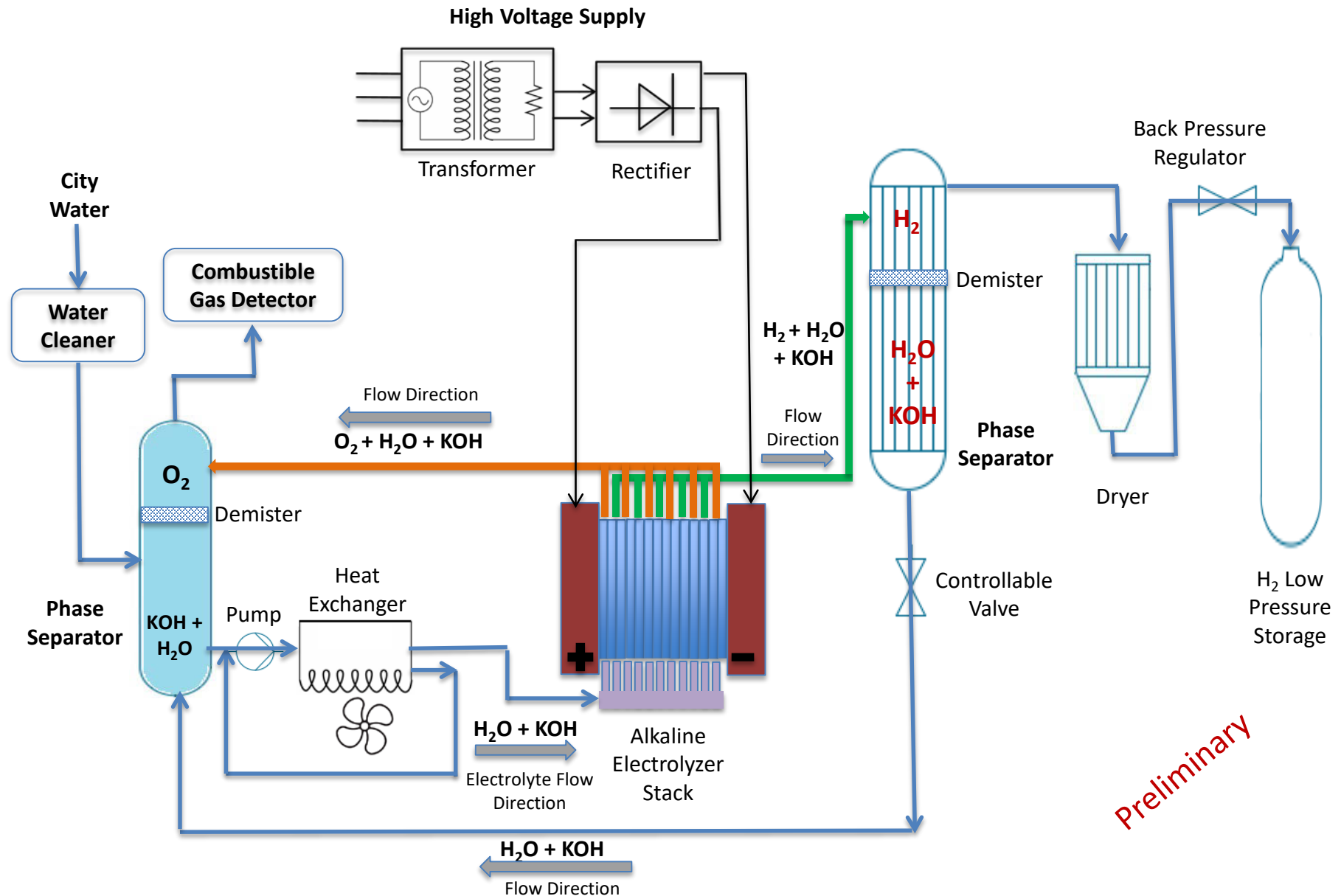




III

## Alkaline Electrolyzer - Functional Specs & System Design

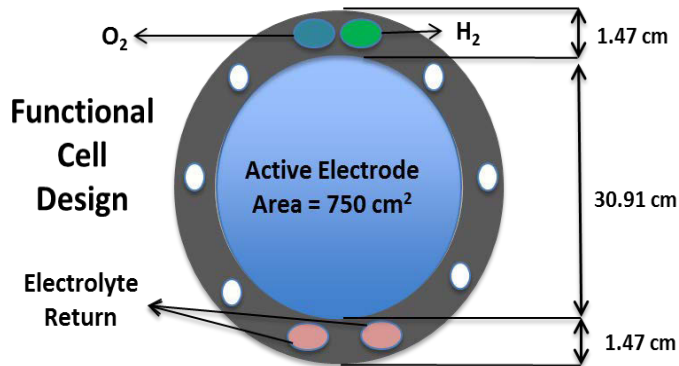
# Alkaline Electrolyzer System



Preliminary

# Alkaline Electrolyzer - Functional Specs

System rated power	10	20	50	100	200	500	1,000	2,000	5,000	10,000	kW
Electrolyte	H <sub>2</sub> O+ 30% KOH					H <sub>2</sub> O+ 30% KOH					
Single cell amps	150	150	150	150	150	150	300	300	300	300	A
Current density	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	A/cm <sup>2</sup>
Reference voltage	1.68	1.68	1.68	1.68	1.68	Area Doubled		1.68	1.68	1.68	V
Power density	0.336	0.336	0.336	0.336	0.336	Area Doubled		0.336	0.336	0.336	W/cm <sup>2</sup>
Single cell power	252.0	252.0	252.0	252.0	252.0	252.0	504.0	504.0	504.0	504.0	W
Cells per system	40	80	199	397	794	1,985	1,985	3,969	9,921	19,842	cells
Stacks per system	1	1	2	2	4	10	10	20	50	100	stacks
cells per stack	40	80	100	199	199	199	199	199	199	199	cells



Part	Materials	Notes
Membrane	m-PBI	Cast membrane using doctor-blade machine
Electrodes	Raney-nickel	PVD + Leaching to get the required porosity
Porous Transport Layer	Pure Nickel Sheets	Corrosion resistance in alkaline solution
Frame	PPS-40GF or PEEK	Injection molding
Plates	Nickel plates	Surface treatment of high purity sheets

PVD: physical vapor deposition

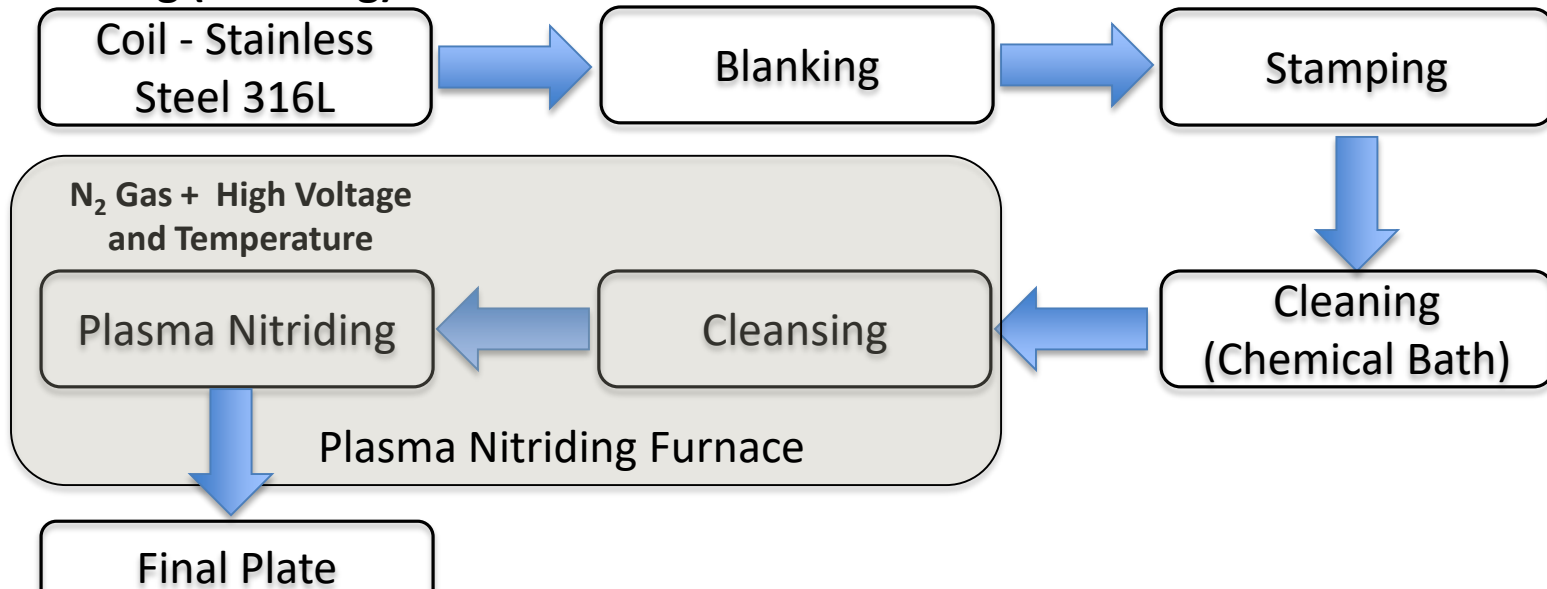


## IV

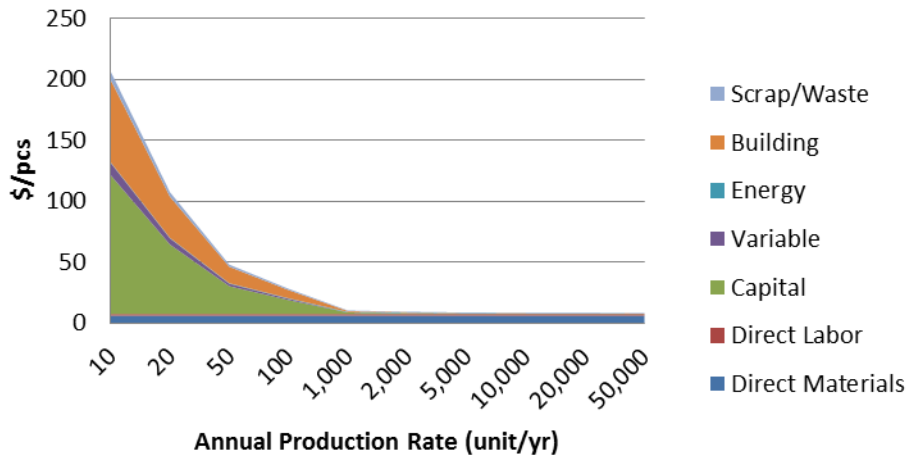
# Cost Analysis for PEM and Alkaline Electrolyzer

# PEM - Bipolar Plate

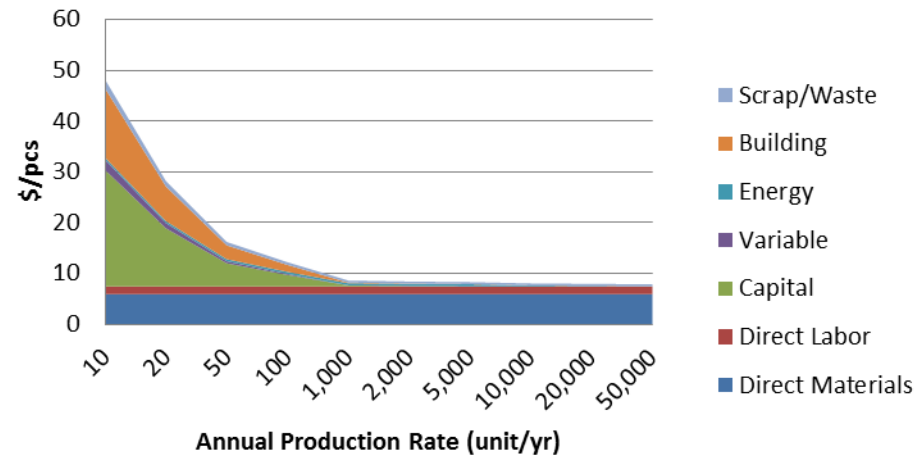
## Case Hardening (Nitriding)



**Bipolar Plate Cost (\$/pcs) - 200 kW system**



**Bipolar Plate Cost (\$/pcs) - 1 MW system**



# PEM Stack Assembly

- Semi-Automatic assembly line
- 3 workers/line
- PPS-40GF Adhesive Materials for MEA
- Compression bands or tie rods
- Stainless steel 316L end plates (thickness 30 mm)

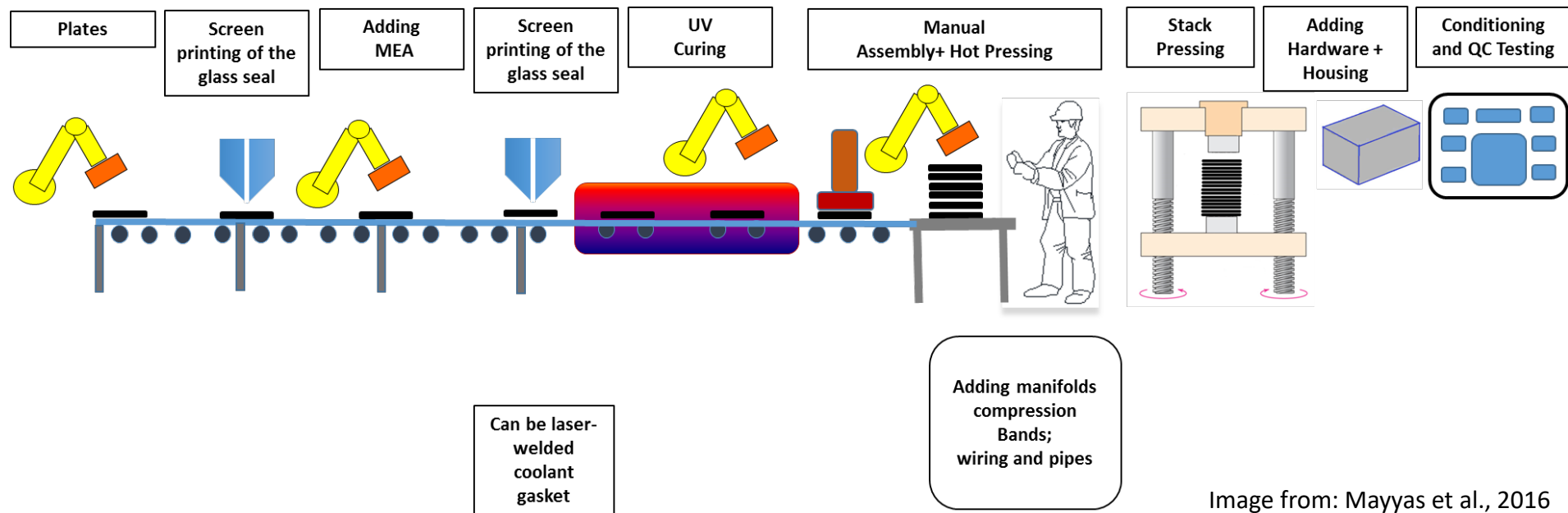
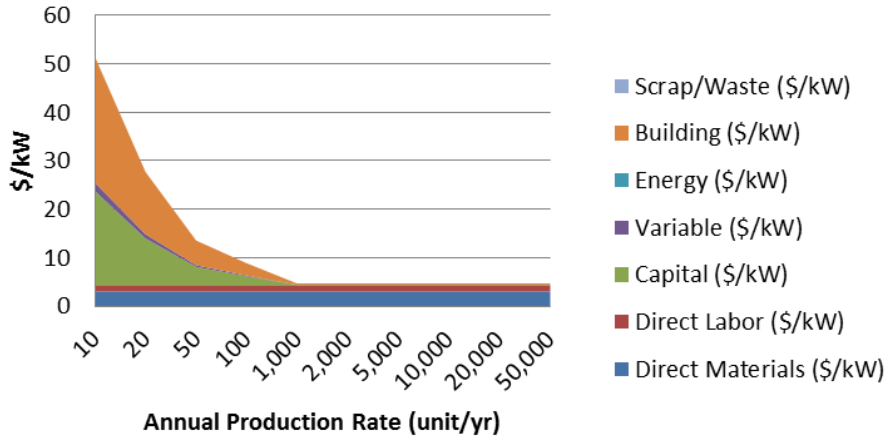


Image from: Mayyas et al., 2016

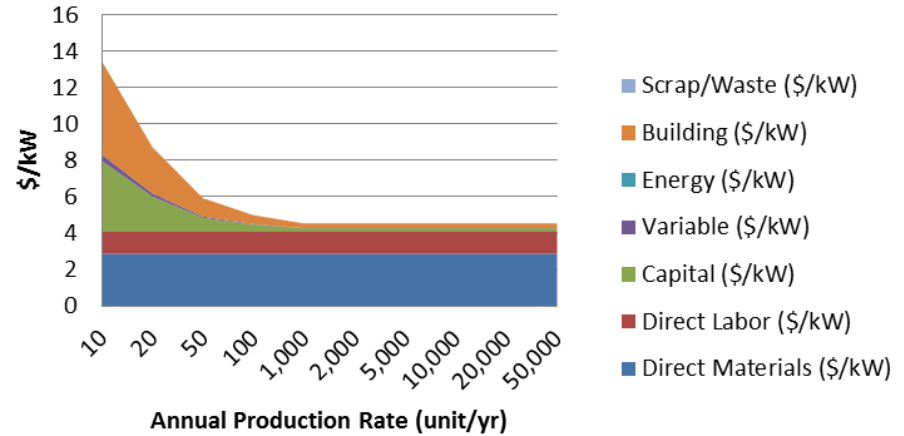
# PEM – Stack Assembly



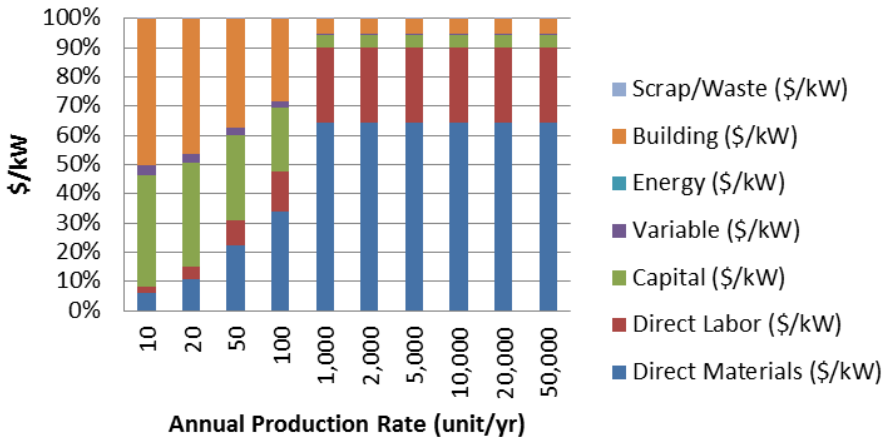
### Stack Assembly Cost (\$/kW)- 200 kW



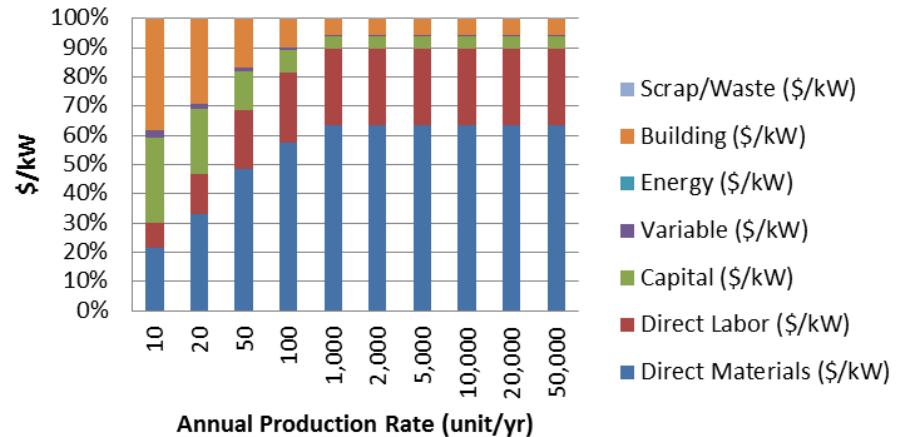
### Stack Assembly Cost (\$/kW)- 1 MW



### Stack Assembly Cost (\$/kW)- 200 kW



### Stack Assembly Cost (\$/kW)- 1 MW

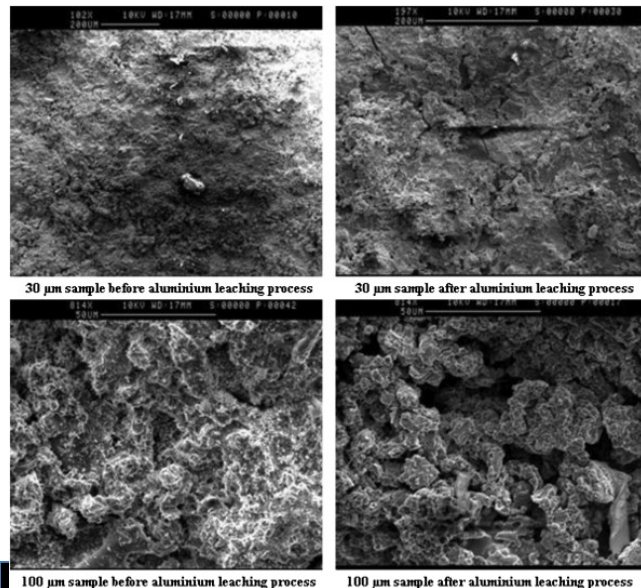
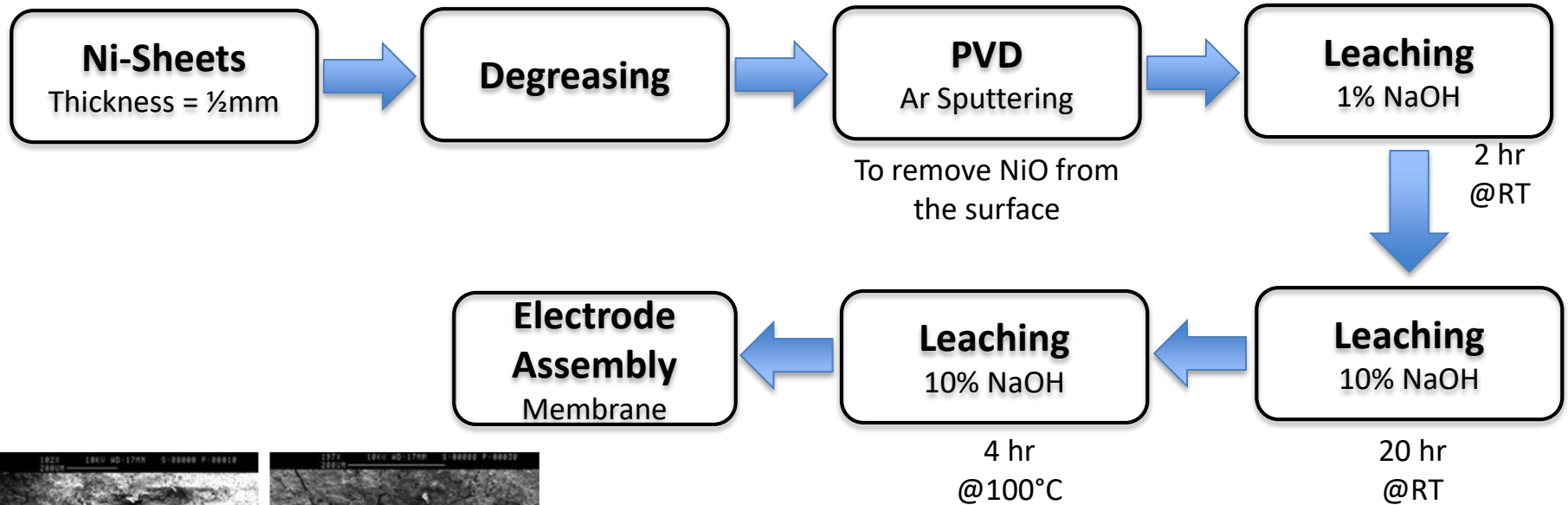


65 kg H<sub>2</sub>/day

385 kg H<sub>2</sub>/day

# Alkaline - Raney Nickel Electrodes

## Process Flow Diagram



Leaching can be made in one step with longer time and higher concentration of NaOH (~30%)

Image from Chade et al., 2013

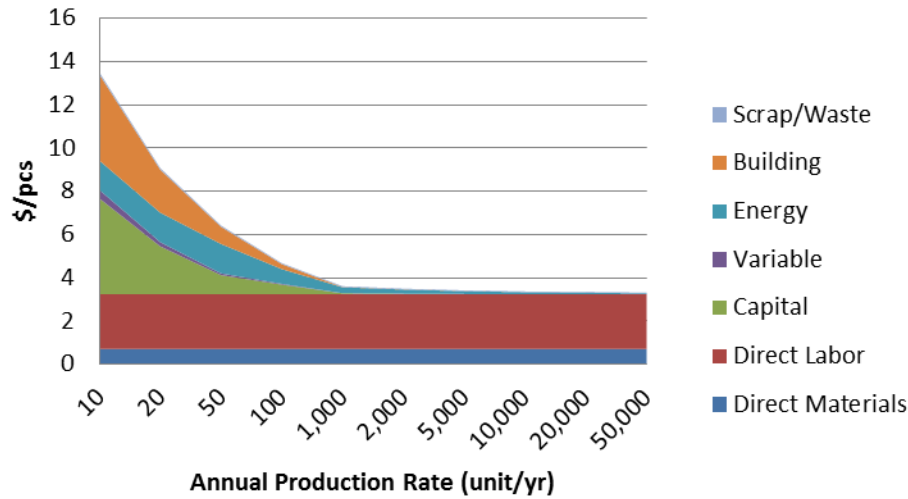
Based on Kjartansdo'ttir et al., 2013



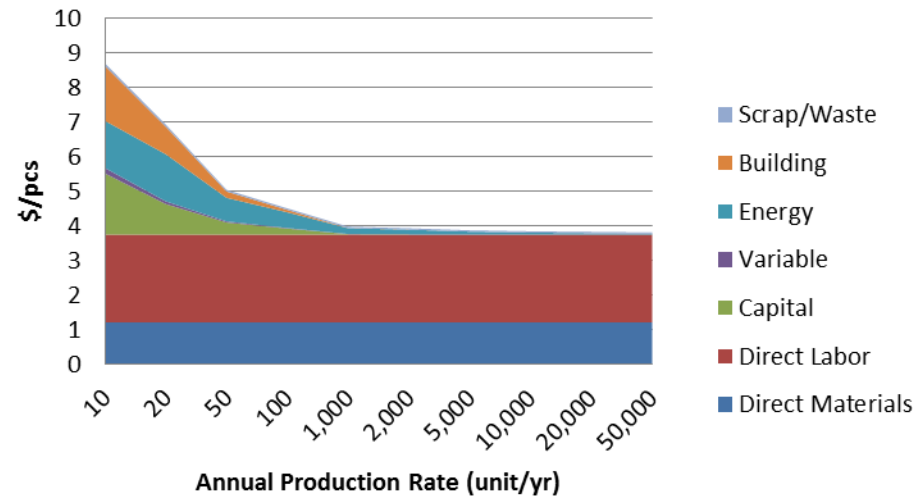
# Alkaline - Raney Nickel Electrodes



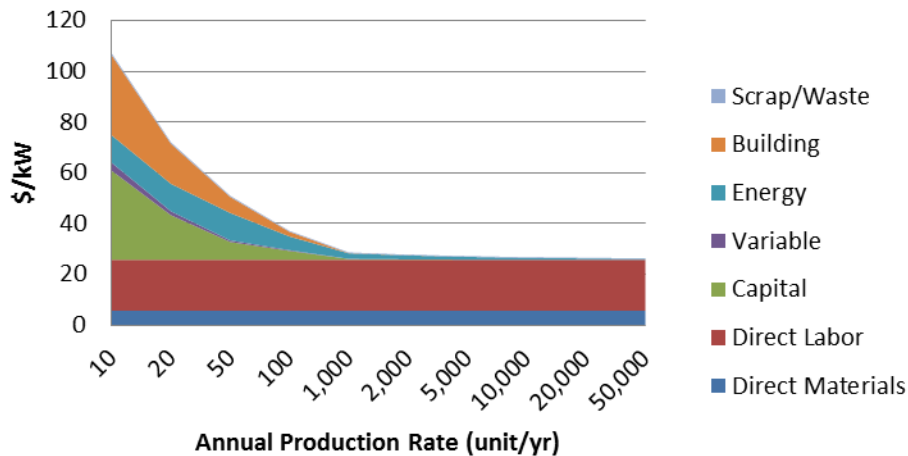
Electrode Cost (\$/pcs) - 200 kW system **Preliminary**



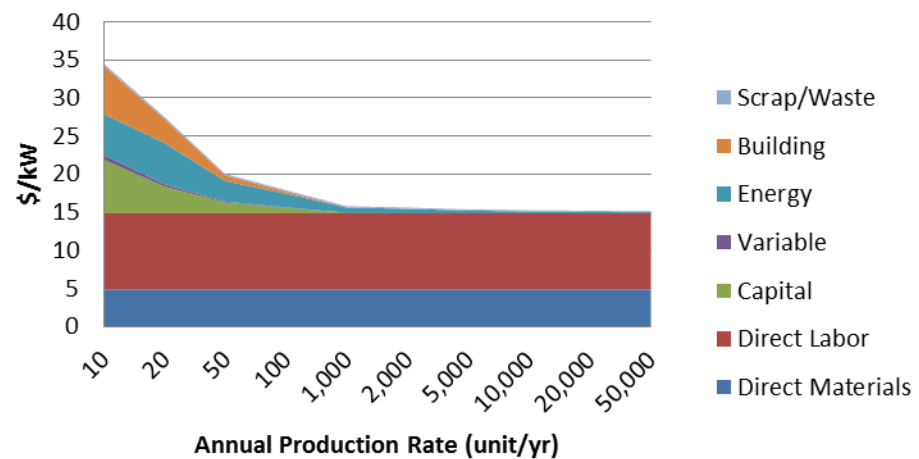
Electrode Cost (\$/pcs) - 1 MW system



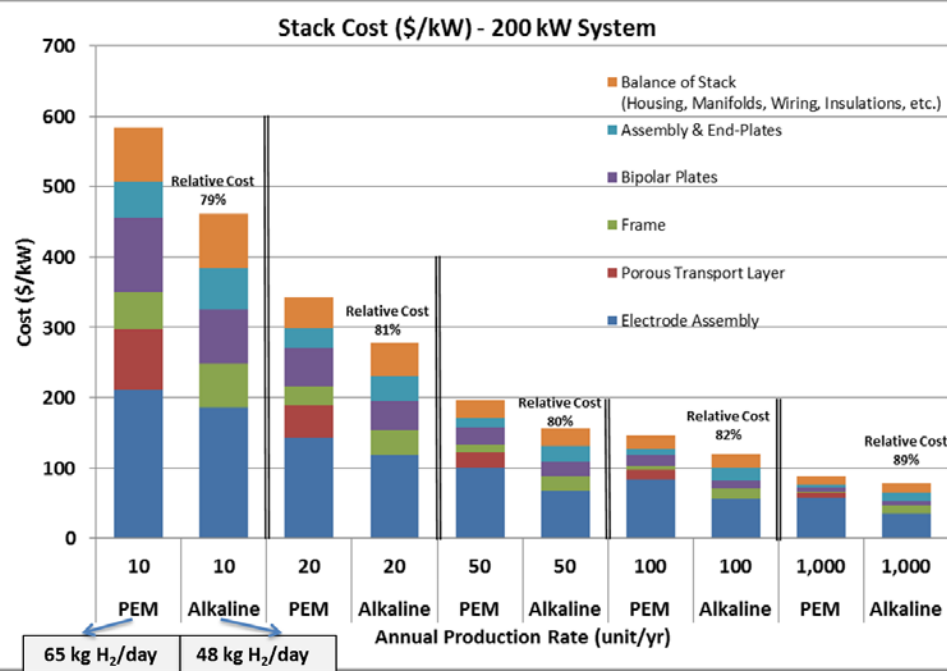
Electrode Cost (\$/kW) - 200 kW system **Preliminary**



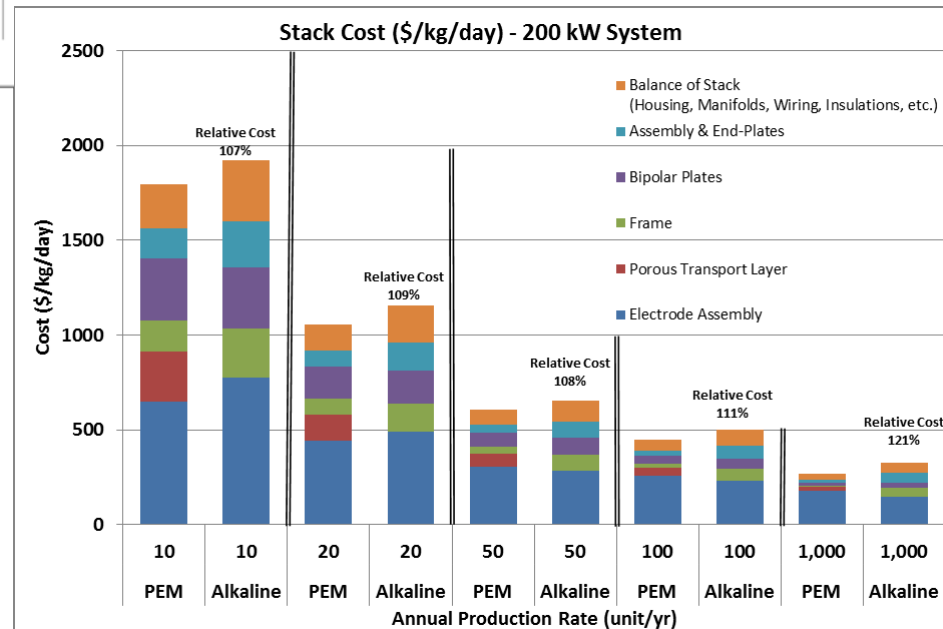
Electrode Cost (\$/kW) - 1 MW system



# Manufacturing Cost of Electrolyzer Stacks

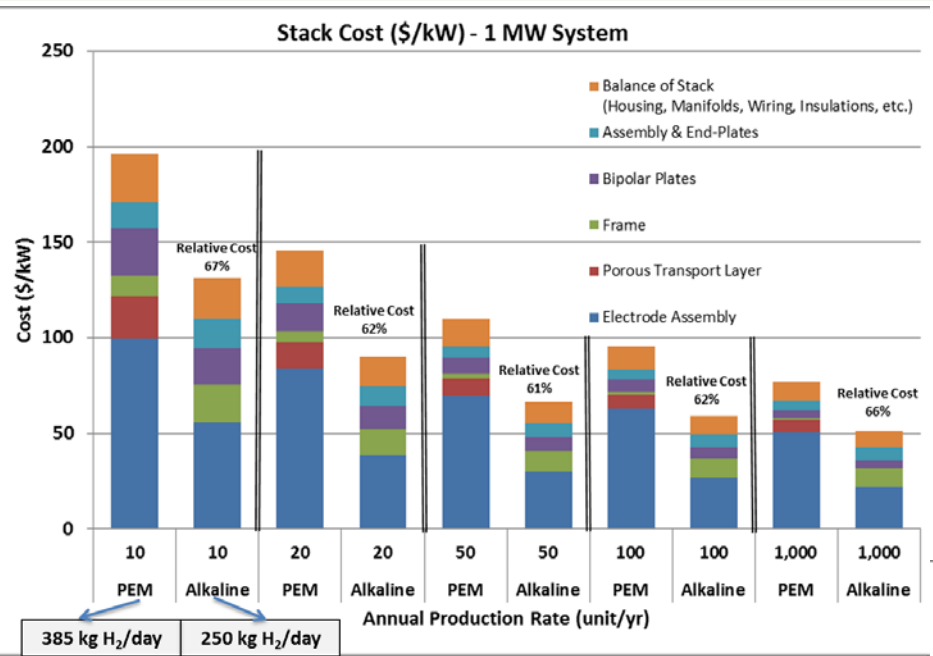


- Alkaline electrolyzer stacks have larger cost in \$/kg-H<sub>2</sub>
- Cost curve for a 200kW system*

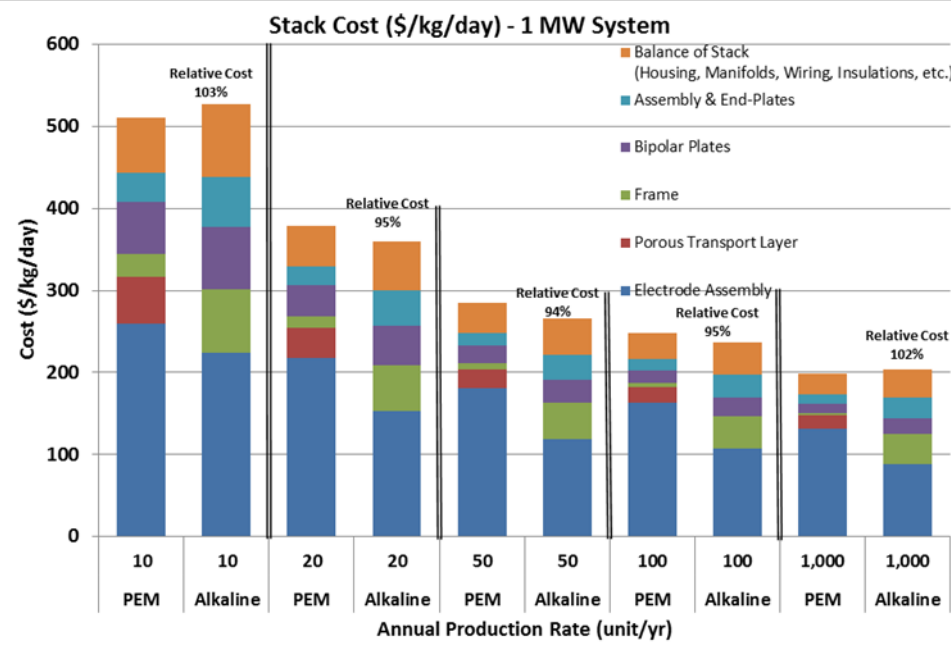


A comparative cost analysis between PEM and alkaline stacks using hydrogen production rates (not the cost of making hydrogen from the electrolyzers)

# Manufacturing Cost of Electrolyzer Stacks



- Alkaline electrolyzer stacks have larger cost in \$/kg-H<sub>2</sub> basis
- Cost curve for a 1MW system



A comparative cost analysis between PEM and alkaline stacks using hydrogen production rates (not the cost of making hydrogen from the electrolyzers)



V

## Concluding Remarks

# Conclusions



- Alkaline water electrolyzers have lower current and power densities, but have lower initial cost (per kW basis)
- PEM electrolyzers may have lower stack cost in (\$ per Nm<sup>3</sup>/hr)
- Good similarities in manufacturing processes for PEM and alkaline electrolysis (e.g., membrane casting, plates stamping & coating, end plates, stack assembly, etc.)



# Questions?

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**[Ahmad.Mayyas@nrel.gov](mailto:Ahmad.Mayyas@nrel.gov)**



# THANK YOU!

NREL/PR-6A20-70380

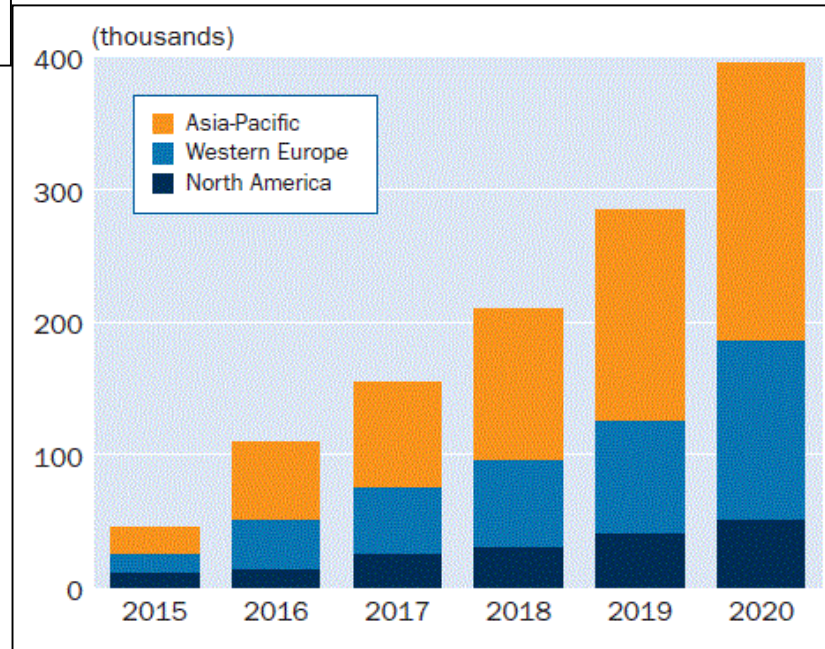
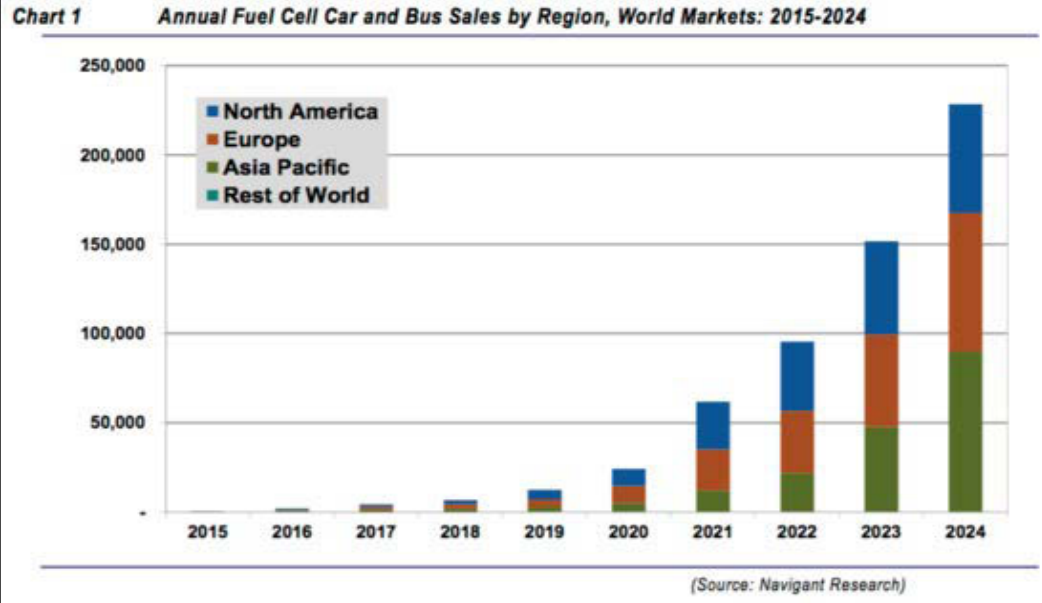
This work was authored by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, operated by Alliance for Sustainable Energy, LLC, for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) under Contract No. DE-AC36-08GO28308. Funding provided by the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Fuel Cell Technologies Office. The views expressed in the article do not necessarily represent the views of the DOE or the U.S. Government. The U.S. Government retains and the publisher, by accepting the article for publication, acknowledges that the U.S. Government retains a nonexclusive, paid-up, irrevocable, worldwide license to publish or reproduce the published form of this work, or allow others to do so, for U.S. Government purposes.



# Backup Slides



# FCEV 2015-2024



# International Manufacturer of Onsite Hydrogen Production System



**Alkaline Electrolyzer**



**PEM Electrolyzer**



**Reformers**

This map can be accessed from <https://maphub.net/mayas111/Onsite-H2-Production-Equipment>



# PEM Electrolysis

# PEM - Functional Specifications

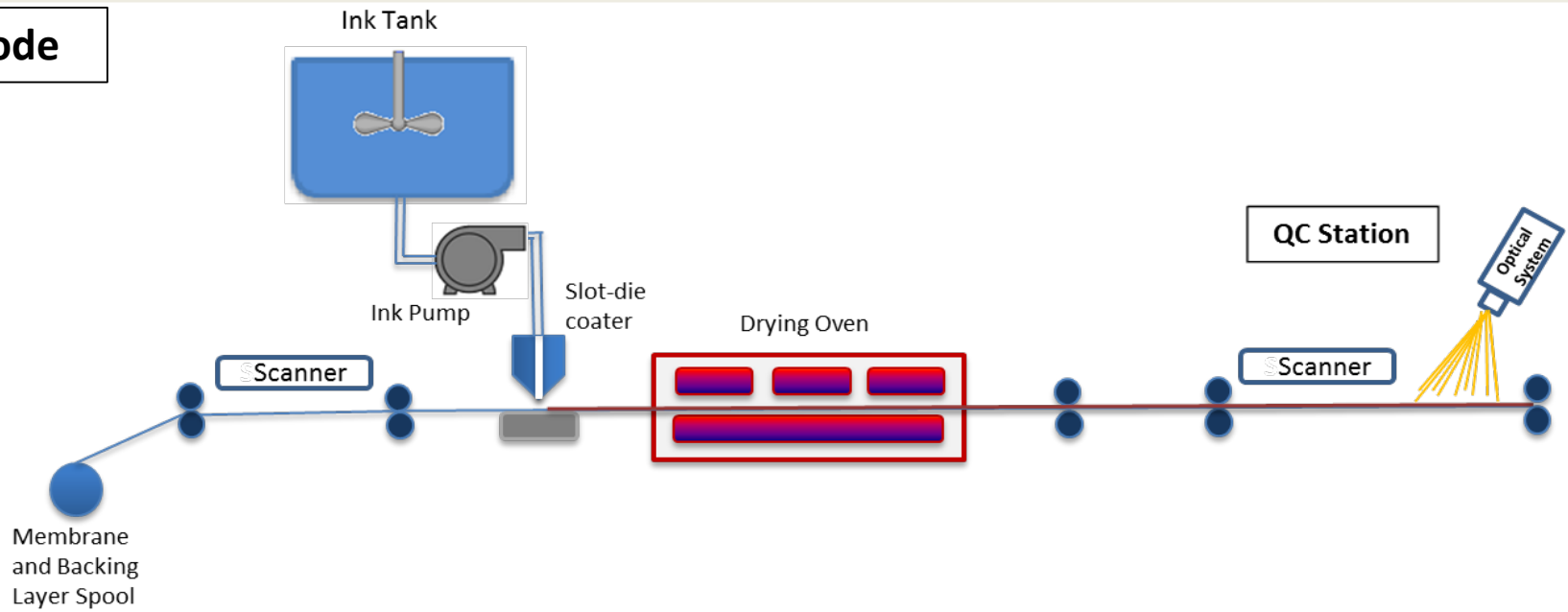


	Manufacturer	Hydrogenics	Hydrogenics	Proton OnSite	Proton OnSite	Proton OnSite	Proton OnSite	Giner	Proton OnSite	Siemens	Units	
	Model Number	HyLYZER™-1	HyLYZER™-2	H2	H2	H6	FuelGen12, Series	Merrimack	Proton OnSite	SILYZER 200 basic		
	Electrolysis type	PEM (Proton Exchange Membrane)	PEM (Proton Exchange Membrane)	PEM (Proton Exchange Membrane)	PEM (Proton Exchange Membrane)	PEM (Proton Exchange Membrane)	PEM (Proton Exchange Membrane)	PEM (Proton Exchange Membrane)	PEM (Proton Exchange Membrane)	PEM (Proton Exchange Membrane)		
	Rated stack Consumption	7.20	14.40	14.00	28.00	40.00	45.00	160.00	250.00	1250.00	kW	
	Startup time:							millisecond scale		< 10 sec	Sec	
	Hydrogen purity (dep. on operating point):			99.9995%	99.9995%	99.9995%	99.9995%		99.3-99.8%	99.5% – 99.9%		
	System Efficiency	6.70	6.70	7.30	7.00	6.80	7.50		6.25	5.56	kWh/Nm <sup>3</sup>	
	Net Production Rate	1	2	2	4	6	6	30.59	40	225	Nm <sup>3</sup> /h	
	Net Production Rate (scfh)	38	76	76	152	228	228	1162	152	8,550	scfh	
	Net Production Rate (kg/day)	2.16	4.32	4.31	8.63	12.94	12.95	66.00	86.30	485.46	kg/day	
	kW per kg/day ratio	3.34	3.34	3.25	3.24	3.09	3.48	2.42	2.90	2.57	kW per kg/day	
System	Turndown Ratio	0 to 100%		0 to 100% net product delivery (Automatic)	0 to 100% net product delivery (Automatic)	0 to 100% net product delivery (Automatic)			10:1	10-100%		%
	Output pressure	Up to 7.9	Up to 7.9				15	0-40 bar	up to 12 bar	Up to 35	bar	
	Feed Water						Potable main water supply		Deionized water			
	Fresh water demand:	1	1	1.83	3.66	5.5	54		3.4 ltr/hr	1.5	ltr / Nm <sup>3</sup> H2	
	Inlet water pressure	0.7-6.9	0.7-6.9	1.5 to 4	1.5 to 4	1.5 to 4	1 to 10				barg	
	Relative Humidity	0 to 90%		0 to 90%	0 to 90%	0 to 90%						%
	Power Supply	208/120,3 phase,4 wire+gnd,50/60 Hz 200-260,1 phase,2 wire+gnd, 50/60 Hz Direct connection to DC possible upon request.			380 to 480 VAC, 3 phase, 50 or 60 Hz	380 to 480 VAC, 3 phase, 50 or 60 Hz	380 to 480 VAC, 3 phase, 50 or 60 Hz	420-480 VAC, 3 phase, 60 Hz, 112 FLA		400VAC 50Hz		
	Cooling strategy	Air Cooled	Air Cooled	Liquid cooled 8.1 kW	Liquid cooled 16.1 kW	Liquid cooled 23.7 kW				Air or Liquid	Air Cooled	
	Operating Temperature	5 to 40	5 to 40	5 to 60	5 to 60	5 to 60	-23 to 46			5 to 35		°C
	Hydrogen quality 5.0:										Optional DeOxo dryer	
	Hydrogen production under nominal load:											
	Life cycle design:										> 80,000 h	
CE Approved							CE Mark with PED and ASME	Yes	Yes			
Other Specs	Other Specs							Circular cells with 300 cm <sup>2</sup>				
	Dimensions	0.75 X 0.66 X 1.17	1.30 X 1.00 X 1.25	180 cm x 81 cm x 191 cm	180 cm x 81 cm x 191 cm	180 cm x 81 cm x 191 cm	2.18 X 0.84 X 1.91		0.85 X 1.05 X 1.65	6.3 X 3.10 X 3.00	mXmXm	
	Weight	250	275	682	858	908	900		260	17000	kg	

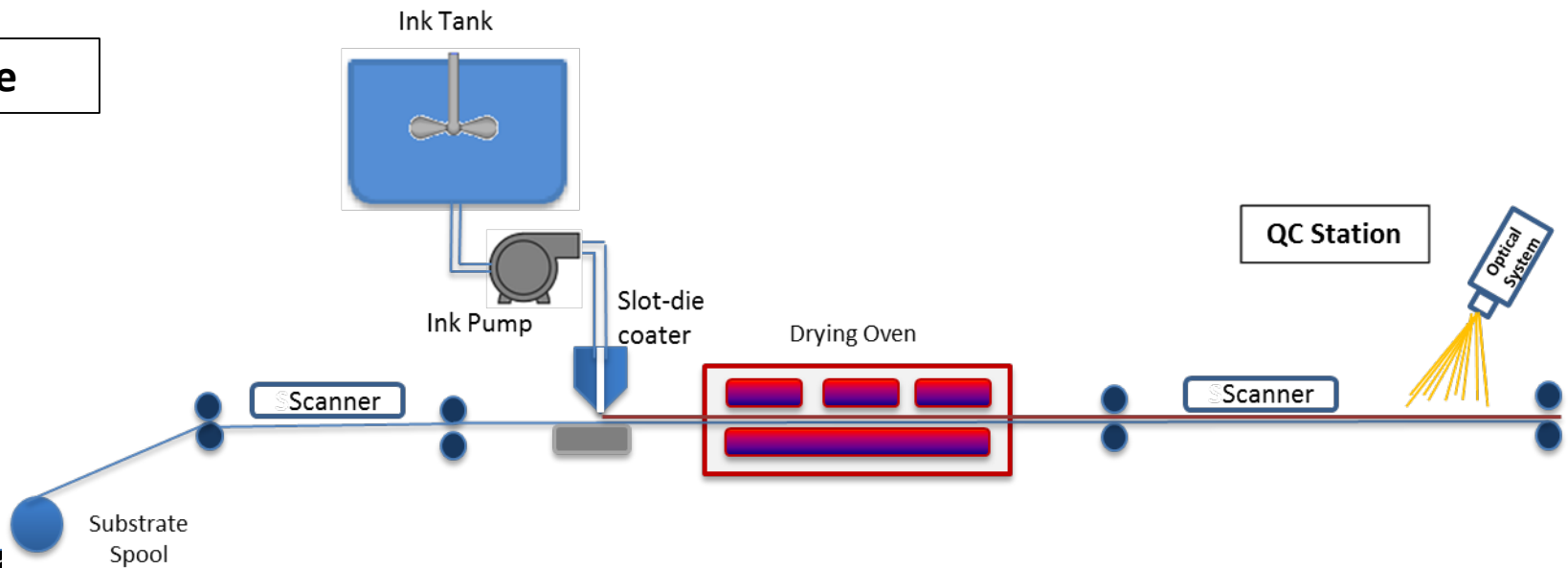
# CCM Slot-Die Coating Process



## Cathode



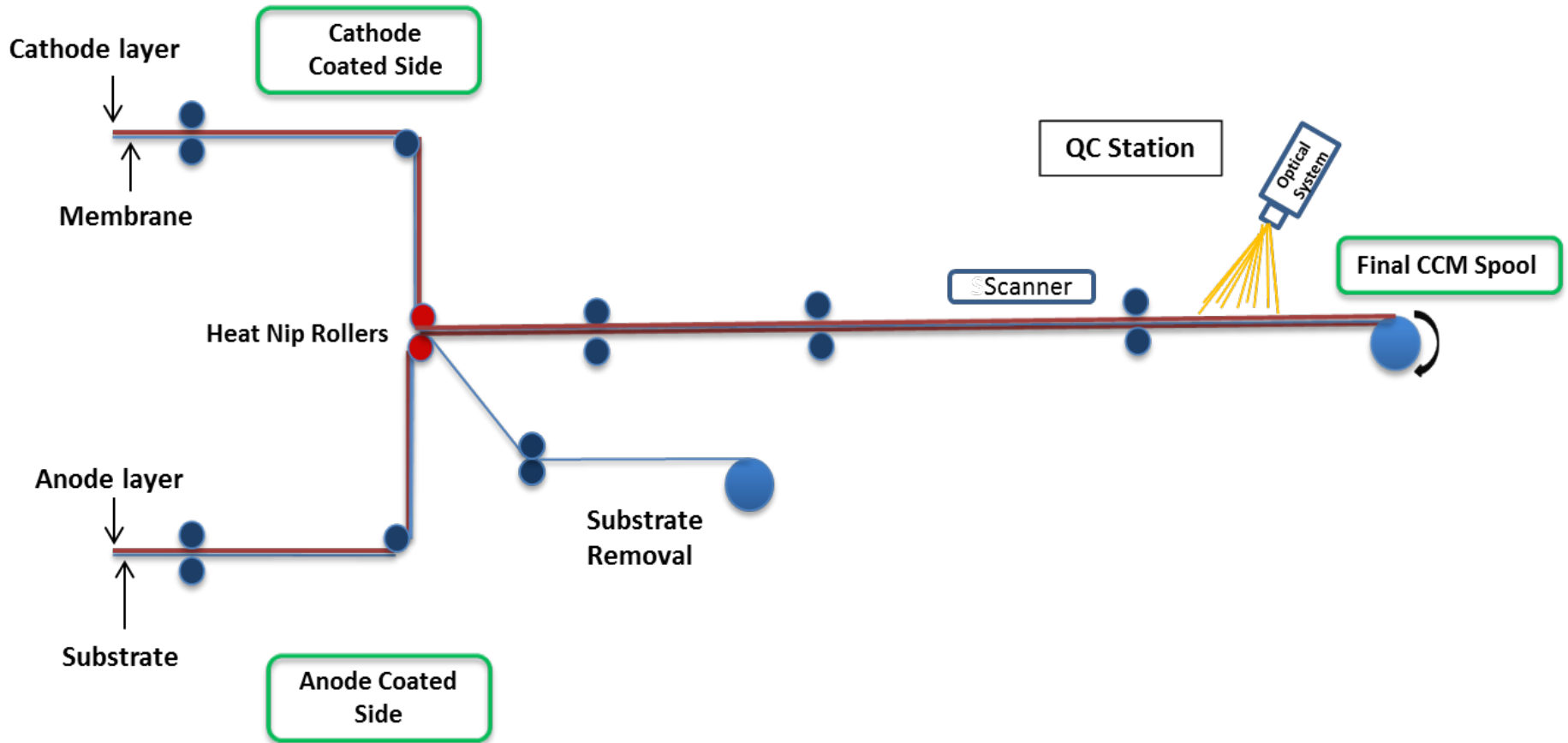
## Anode



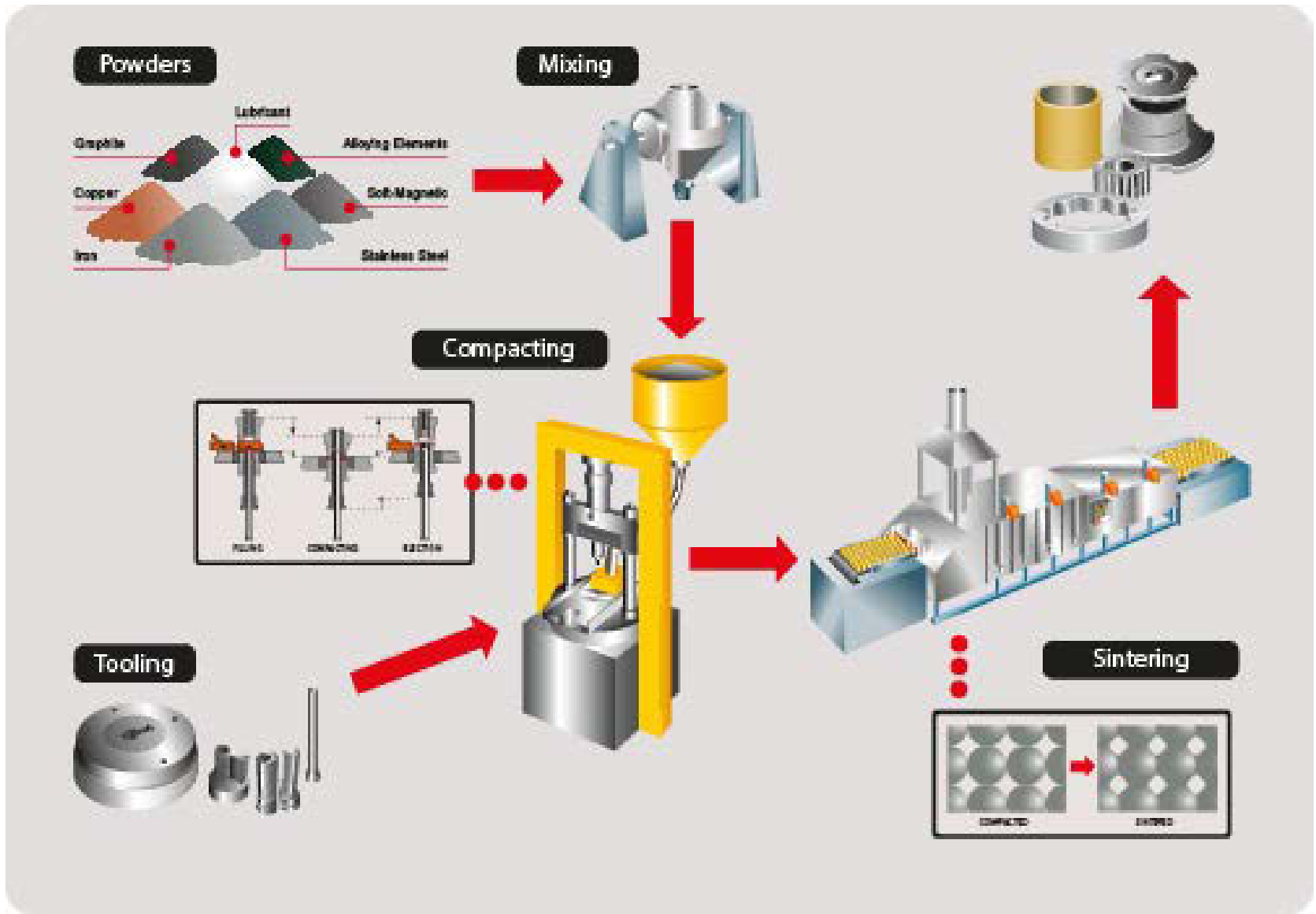
# CCM Slot-Die Coating Process



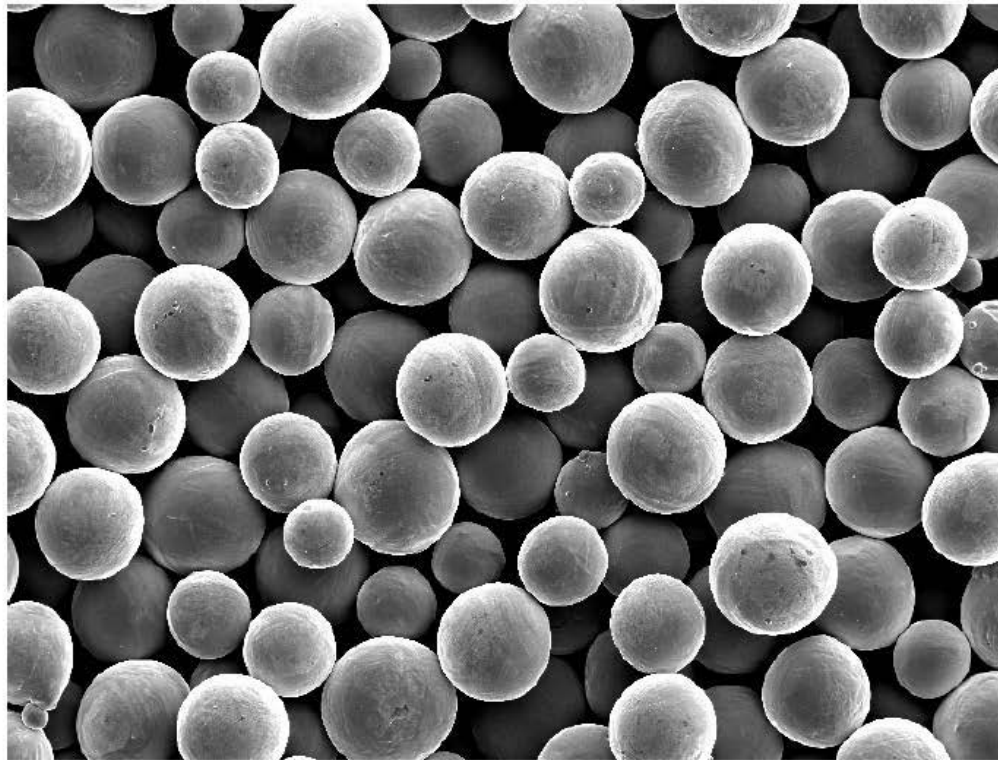
Final CCM



# Powder Metallurgy for GDL



# Porous Transport Layer = GDL



View field: 3.38 mm    DET: SE Detector  
HV: 20.0 kV        DATE: 10/11/05    1 mm    Vega ©Tescan

(a)



1 cm

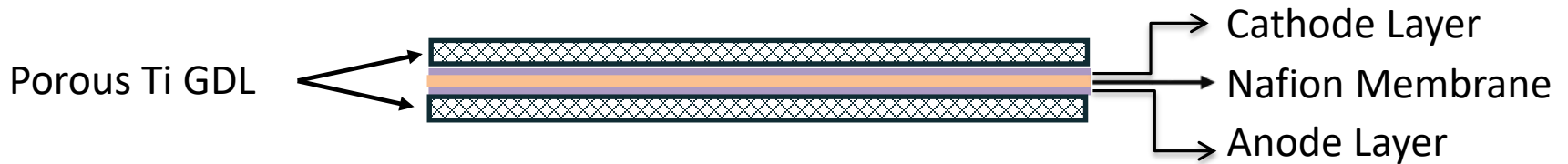
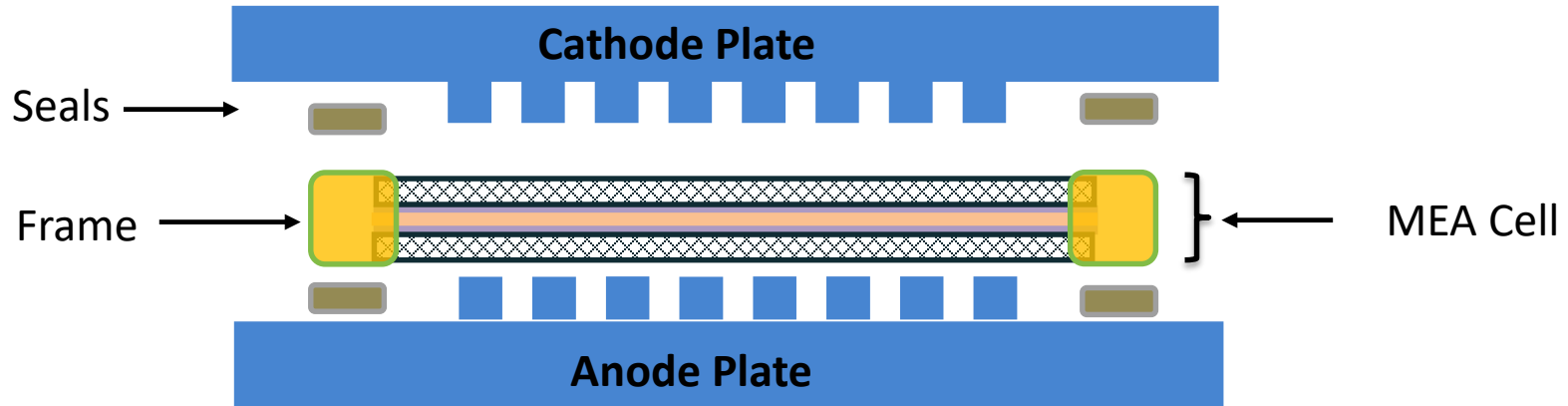


(b)

**Fig. 2.** SEM (a) and optical microscope (b) micrographs of a porous current collectors made of sintered titanium spherical-particles.



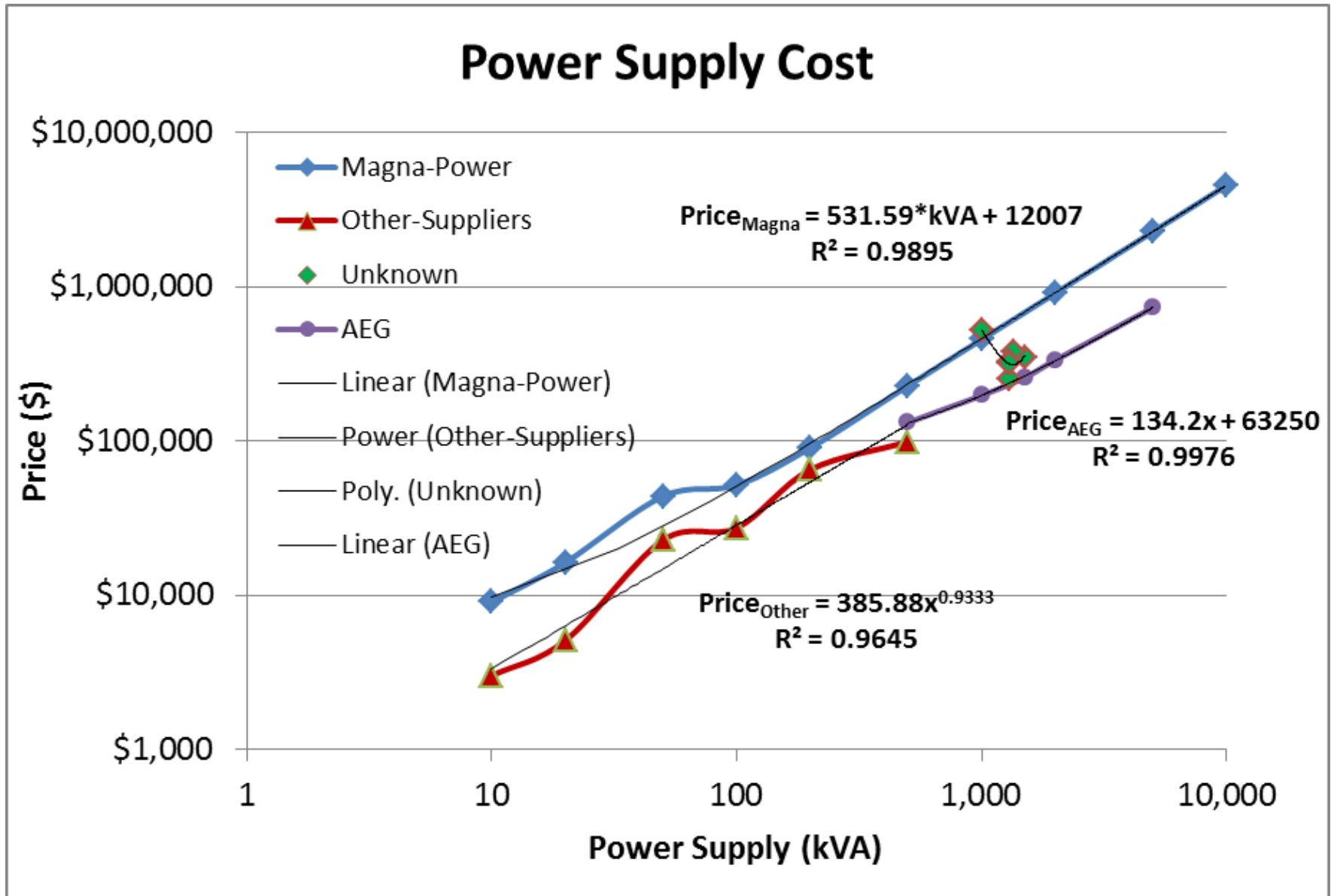
# Proposed Cell/Plates/Seal Structure



# Balance of Plant Cost (Parts Only)

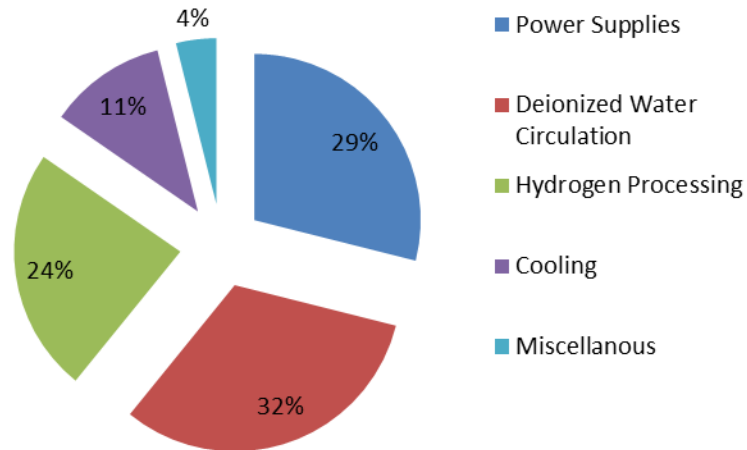
System Size kW			10	20	50	100	200	500	1,000	2,000	5,000	10,000
System	Subsystem	Sizing Exponent (if)	Baseline Cost (\$)									
			10 kW	20 kW	50 kW	100 kW	200 kW	500 kW	1 MW	2 MW	5 MW	10 MW
Power Supplies	Power Supply	Quote (AEG)	\$3,000	\$5,080	\$22,733	\$27,331	\$44,000	\$132,000	\$198,000	\$335,500	\$734,250	\$1,405,250
	DC Voltage Transducer	Quote	\$225	\$225	\$225	\$225	\$225	\$225	\$225	\$225	\$225	\$225
	DC Current Transducer	Quote	\$340	\$340	\$340	\$340	\$340	\$340	\$340	\$340	\$340	\$340
	<b>Total</b>		<b>\$3,225</b>	<b>\$5,305</b>	<b>\$22,958</b>	<b>\$27,556</b>	<b>\$44,225</b>	<b>\$132,225</b>	<b>\$198,225</b>	<b>\$335,725</b>	<b>\$734,475</b>	<b>\$1,405,475</b>
Deionized Water Circulation	Oxygen Separator Tank	Quote	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$40,000	\$80,000	\$160,000	\$320,000
	Circulation Pump	Quote	\$409	\$647	\$1,538	\$3,349	\$7,053	\$10,000	\$10,962	\$20,000	\$40,000	\$80,000
	Polishing Pump	Quote	\$1,619	\$2,071	\$2,071	\$2,289	\$2,289	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$10,000	\$20,000	\$40,000
	Piping	0.30	\$3,807	\$4,687	\$6,170	\$7,591	\$10,000	\$12,311	\$15,157	\$18,661	\$24,565	\$30,243
	Valves, Instrumentation	0.30	\$2,855	\$3,516	\$4,628	\$5,697	\$7,500	\$9,234	\$11,368	\$13,995	\$18,423	\$22,682
	Pressure, temperature, conductivity, flowmeter Class I, Div 2, Group B rating drives up prices											
	Controls	0.60	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$3,031	\$4,595	\$6,964	\$12,068	\$18,292
	<b>Total</b>		<b>\$20,691</b>	<b>\$22,921</b>	<b>\$26,407</b>	<b>\$30,932</b>	<b>\$48,842</b>	<b>\$57,076</b>	<b>\$87,082</b>	<b>\$149,621</b>	<b>\$275,056</b>	<b>\$511,217</b>
Hydrogen Processing	Dryer Bed		\$6,366	\$6,366	\$13,860	\$13,860	\$13,860	\$25,000	\$36,589	\$73,178	\$146,356	\$292,712
	Hydrogen Separator	0.70	\$1,051	\$1,707	\$3,241	\$5,268	\$10,000	\$16,245	\$26,390	\$42,871	\$81,418	\$132,264
	Tubing	0.30	\$1,904	\$2,344	\$3,085	\$3,798	\$5,000	\$6,156	\$7,579	\$9,330	\$12,282	\$15,121
	Valves, Instrumentation	0.30	\$1,904	\$2,344	\$3,085	\$3,798	\$5,000	\$6,156	\$7,579	\$9,330	\$12,282	\$15,121
	Pressure, temperature, conductivity, flowmeter Class I, Div 2, Group B rating drives up prices											
	Controls	0.60	\$362	\$549	\$952	\$1,443	\$2,500	\$3,789	\$5,743	\$8,706	\$15,085	\$22,865
	<b>Total</b>		<b>\$11,586</b>	<b>\$13,309</b>	<b>\$24,223</b>	<b>\$28,165</b>	<b>\$36,360</b>	<b>\$57,346</b>	<b>\$83,880</b>	<b>\$143,415</b>	<b>\$267,424</b>	<b>\$478,084</b>
Cooling	Plate heat exchanger		\$9,000	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$10,525	\$11,675	\$14,742	\$14,742
	Cooling pump	Quote (n=0.67)	\$970	\$1,169	\$1,169	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$2,387	\$3,797	\$6,042	\$11,163	\$17,761
	Valves, instrumentation	0.60	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$3,031	\$4,595	\$6,964	\$12,068	\$18,292
	Piping	0.60	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,516	\$2,297	\$3,482	\$6,034	\$9,146
	Dry cooler	0.45	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$5,464	\$7,464	\$10,196	\$15,400	\$21,037
	<b>Total</b>		<b>\$16,970</b>	<b>\$17,169</b>	<b>\$17,169</b>	<b>\$17,500</b>	<b>\$17,500</b>	<b>\$21,398</b>	<b>\$28,679</b>	<b>\$38,360</b>	<b>\$59,408</b>	<b>\$80,979</b>
Miscellaneous	Valve air supply – nitrogen or compressed air	n/a	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
	Ventilation and safety requirements Combustible gas detectors	n/a	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
	Exhaust ventilation	n/a	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000
	<b>Total</b>		<b>\$6,000</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>
<b>Grand Total (\$)</b>			<b>\$58,472</b>	<b>\$64,704</b>	<b>\$96,758</b>	<b>\$110,153</b>	<b>\$152,927</b>	<b>\$274,045</b>	<b>\$403,865</b>	<b>\$673,120</b>	<b>\$1,342,363</b>	<b>\$2,481,754</b>
<b>Cost (\$/kW)</b>			<b>\$5,847</b>	<b>\$3,235</b>	<b>\$1,935</b>	<b>\$1,102</b>	<b>\$765</b>	<b>\$548</b>	<b>\$404</b>	<b>\$337</b>	<b>\$268</b>	<b>\$248</b>

# Power Supply Cost

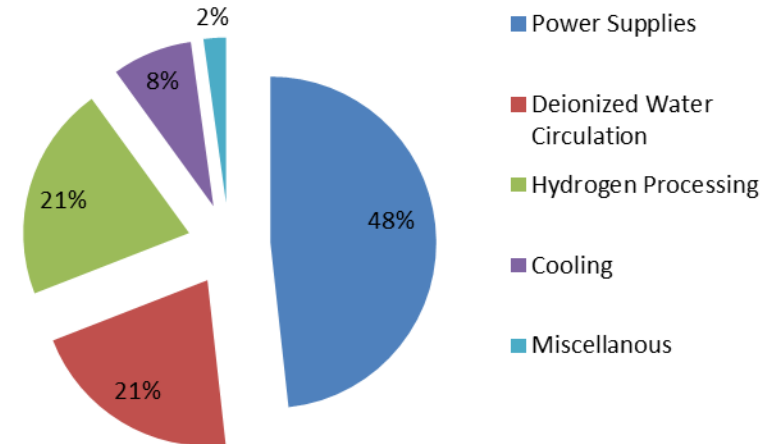


# Balance of Plant Cost (Parts Only)

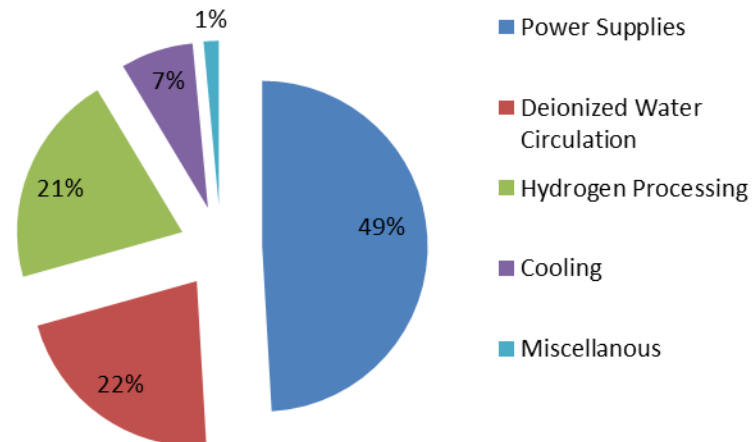
## BOP Cost Breakdown- 200kW System



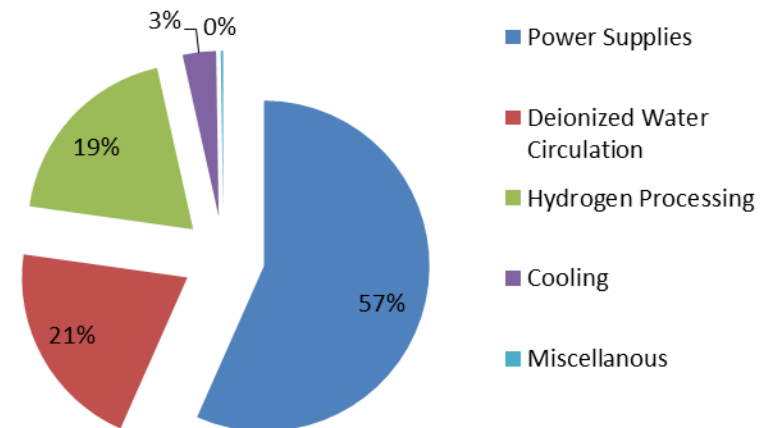
## BOP Cost Breakdown- 500kW System



## BOP Cost Breakdown- 1MW System



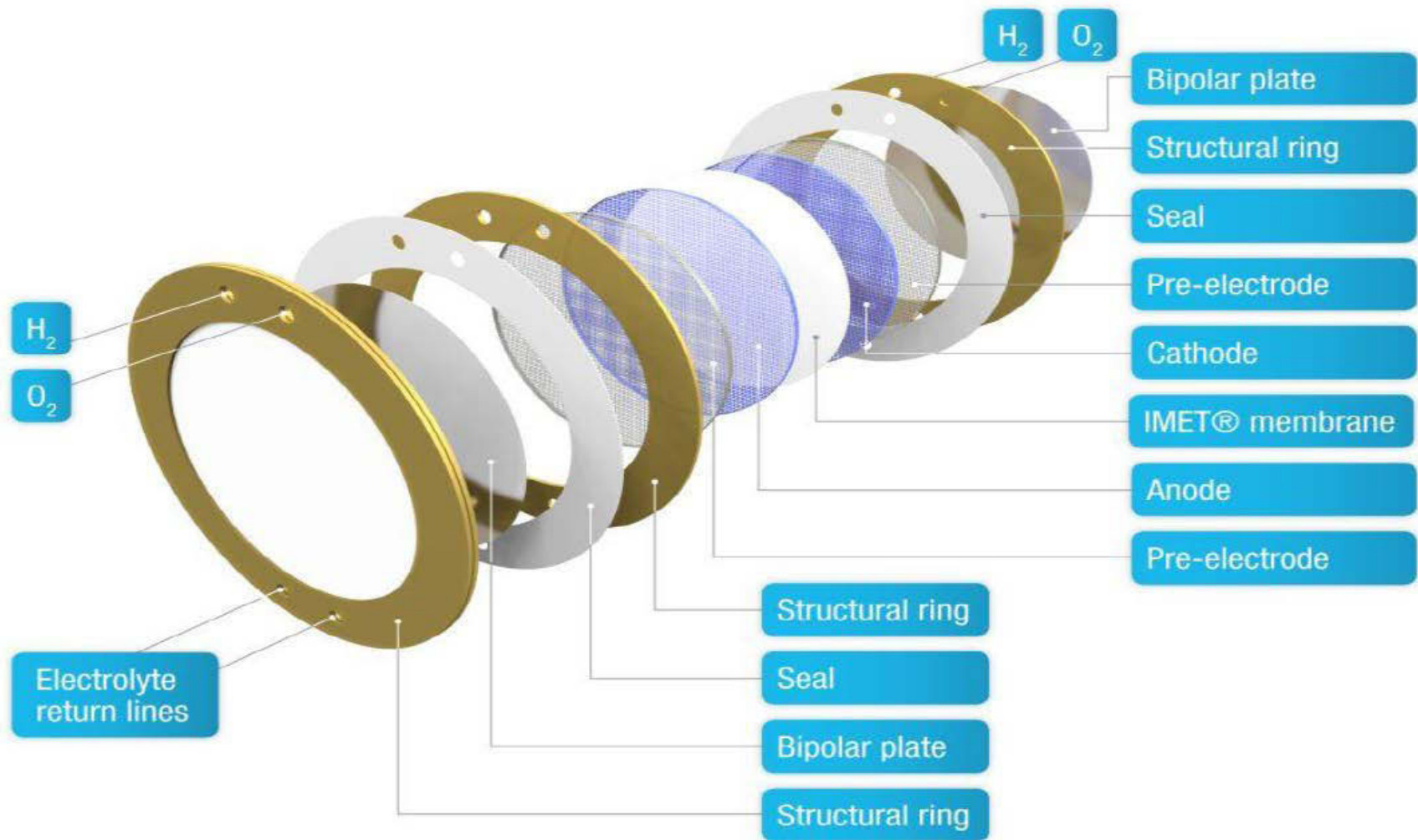
## BOP Cost Breakdown- 10MW System





# Alkaline Electrolysis

# Alkaline Electrolyzer Stack



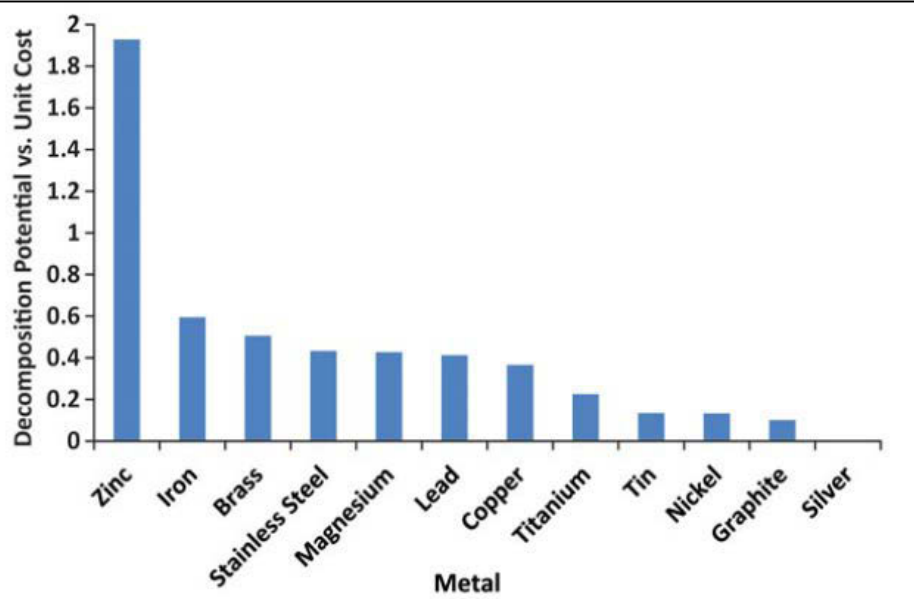
**Cells are assembled electrically in series, hydraulically in parallel.**

Picture of Hydrogenics Alkaline Electrolyzer

# Commercial Alkaline Electrolyzers

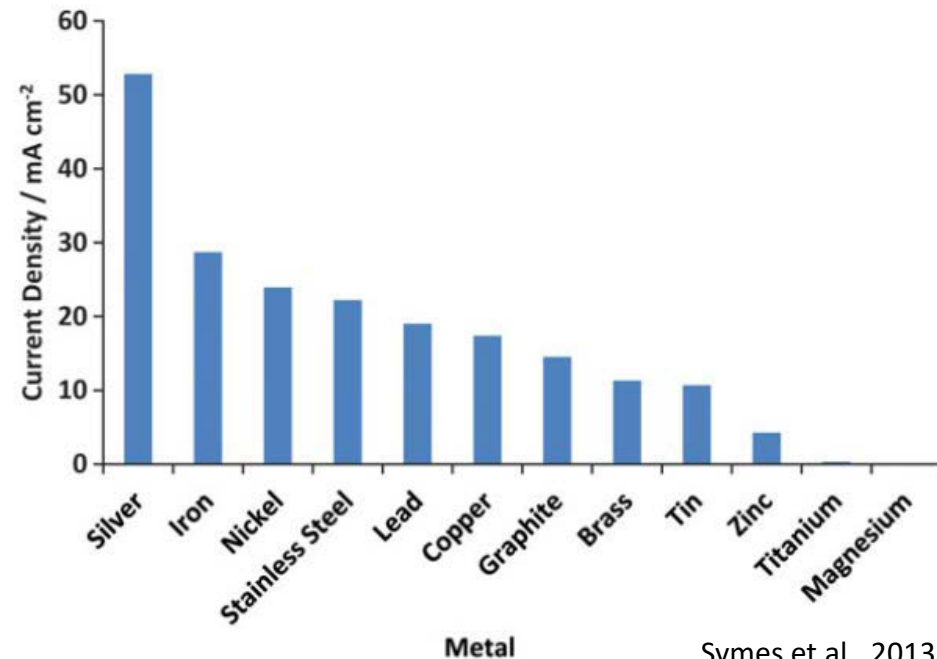
	Manufacturer	Pure Energy Center	Hydrogenics	Hydrogenics	Hydrogenics	Units	
	Model Number		HySTAT 15	HySTAT 30	HySTAT 60		
System	Electrolysis type	Alkaline	Alkaline	Alkaline	Alkaline		
	Rated stack Consumption	22.30	145.00	270.00	515.00	kW	
	Electrolyte		H <sub>2</sub> O+ 30% KOH	H <sub>2</sub> O+ 30% KOH	H <sub>2</sub> O+ 30% KOH		
	Hydrogen purity (dep. on operating point):	99.3-99.8	99.9	99.9	99.9	%	
	System Efficiency	5.58	4.90	5.20	4.90	kWh/Nm <sup>3</sup>	
	Net Production Rate	4	6 to 15	12 to 30	24 to 60	Nm <sup>3</sup> /h	
	Net Production Rate (scfh)		227 to 570	456 to 1140	912 to 2280	scfh	
	Net Production Rate (kg/day)		13 to 32	26 to 65	52 to 130	kg/day	
	kWh per kg ratio	62.08	54.52	57.86	54.52	kWh//kg	
	Turndown Ratio	10-100%				%	
	Output pressure	up to 12 bar	10	10	10	bar	
	Feed Water	Deionized water					
	Fresh water demand:					ltr / Nm <sup>3</sup> H <sub>2</sub>	
	Inlet water pressure					barg	
	Relative Humidity		<95	<96	<96	%	
	Power Supply	400 VAC; 50 Hz			3*400 VAC 50 Hz		
	Cooling strategy	Air or liquid	Water cooled	Water cooled	Water cooled		
Operating Temperature	5-35				°C		
Certification	CE Approved						
Other Specs	Other Specs						
	Dimensions	1.65	6		3.22X1.81X2.53	mXmXm	
	Weight	260	3800			kg	

# Electrode Materials



- Decomposition (corrosion) to cost ratio  
→ Zinc, iron and brass would perform better than other metals

- From the current density perspective  
→ Silver, iron and nickel would perform better than other metals



Symes et al., 2013



# Alkaline Electrolyzer Power Density

## Alkaline Water Electrolysis

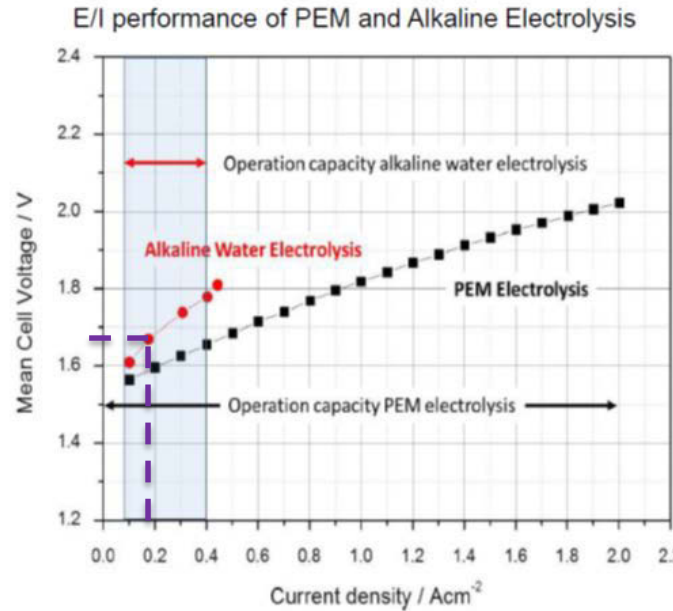


### Advantages:

- Well developed technology
- Use of non-noble catalysts
- Long-term stability
- Units up to 750 Nm<sup>3</sup>/h (3,4 MW)

### Challenges:

- Increase the current density
- Extend partial load capability
- Dynamics of the overall system
- Long term stable diaphragm

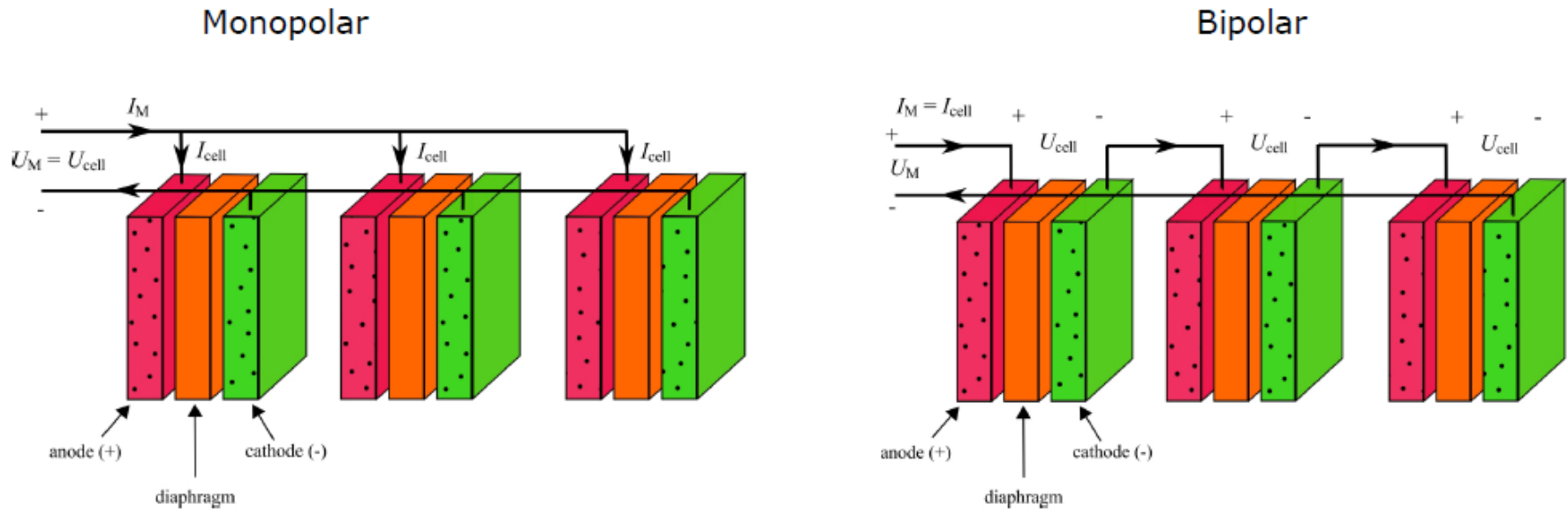


Source: Mergel, J.; Carmo M, Fritz, D (2013). "Status on Technologies for Hydrogen Production by Water Electrolysis". In Stolten, D. Transition to Renewable Energy Systems. Weinheim: Wiley-VCH.

<b>Current density</b>	<b>0.200</b>	<b>A/cm<sup>2</sup></b>
<b>Reference voltage</b>	<b>1.68</b>	<b>V</b>
<b>Power density</b>	<b>0.336</b>	<b>W/cm<sup>2</sup></b>

Current density			Today	2015	2020	2025	2030
A/cm <sup>2</sup>	Alkaline	Central	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.7	0.8
		Range	0.2 - 0.4	0.2 - 0.7	0.3 - 1.0	0.5 - 1.0	0.6 - 1.0
	PEM	Central	1.7	1.9	2.2	2.4	2.5
		Range	1.0 - 2.0	1.2 - 2.2	1.6 - 2.5	1.6 - 2.8	1.6 - 3.0

# Alkaline Electrolyzer Configuration



14 ■ 10.2.2016

■ Joonas Koponen



# Zero Gap Cell Design

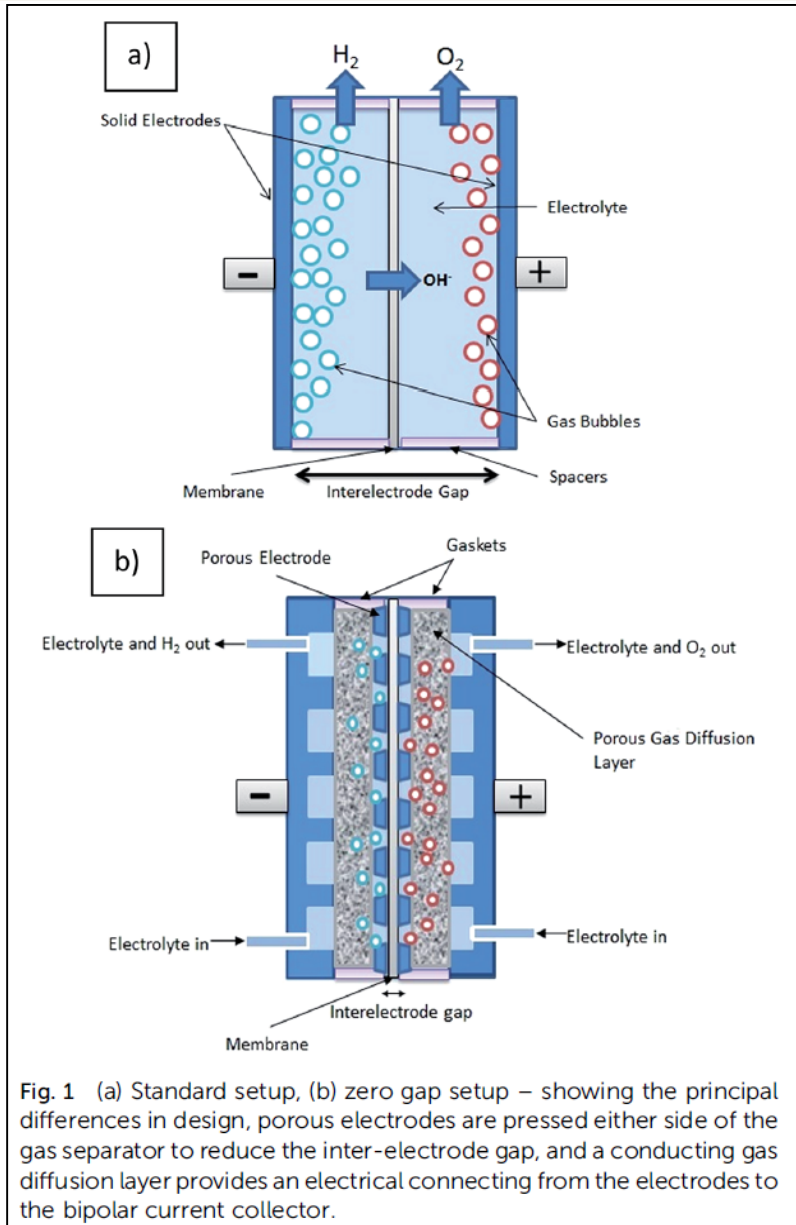


Fig. 1 (a) Standard setup, (b) zero gap setup – showing the principal differences in design, porous electrodes are pressed either side of the gas separator to reduce the inter-electrode gap, and a conducting gas diffusion layer provides an electrical connecting from the electrodes to the bipolar current collector.

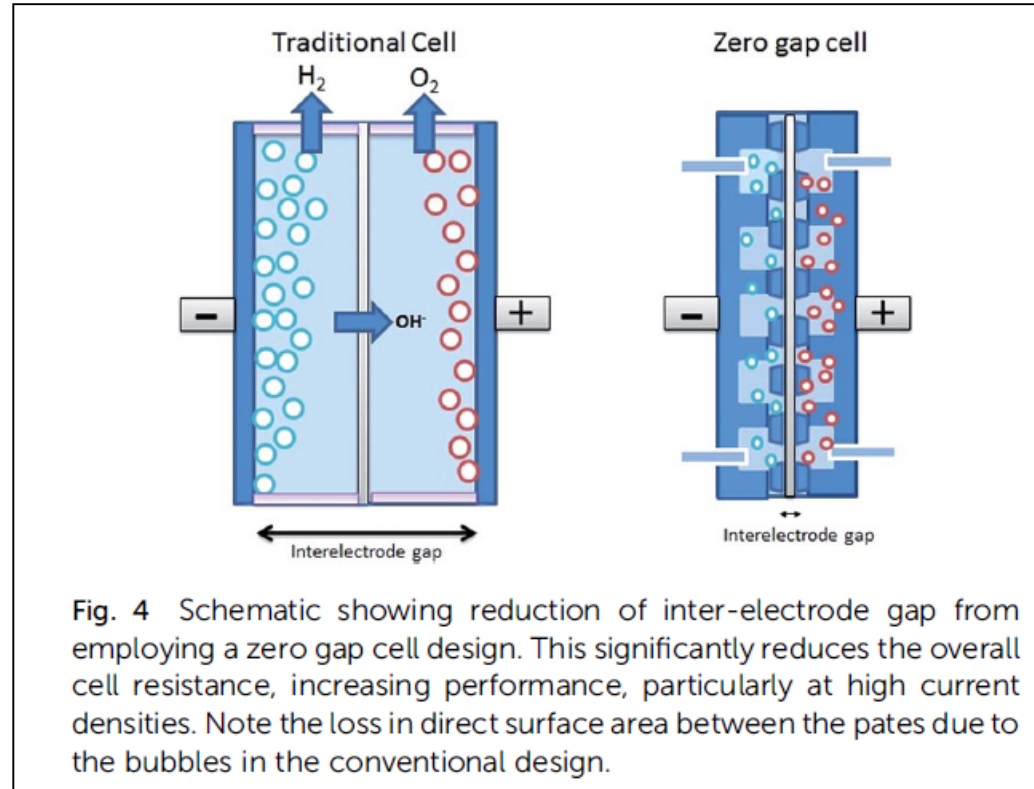


Fig. 4 Schematic showing reduction of inter-electrode gap from employing a zero gap cell design. This significantly reduces the overall cell resistance, increasing performance, particularly at high current densities. Note the loss in direct surface area between the plates due to the bubbles in the conventional design.

# Stack Components

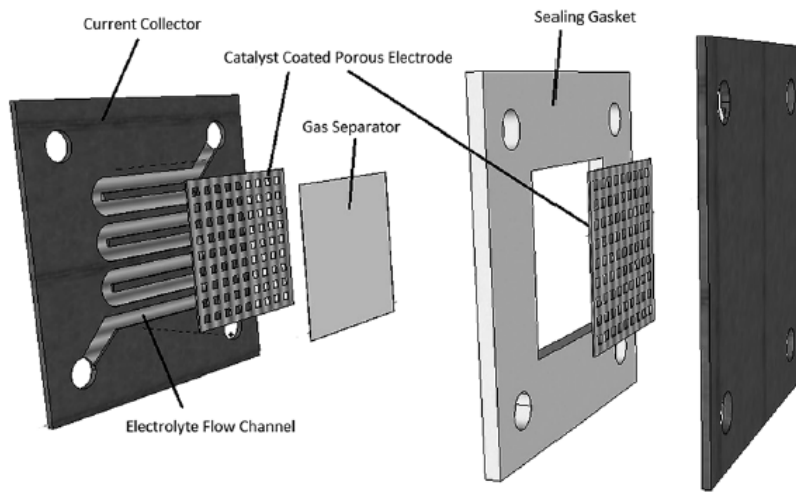


Fig. 7 3D schematic of a catalyst coated substrate zero gap cell, the two porous electrodes are individually coated with catalysts, and are pressed onto either side of the gas separator. The flow channels in the current collectors permit easy supply and removal of reactants/products.

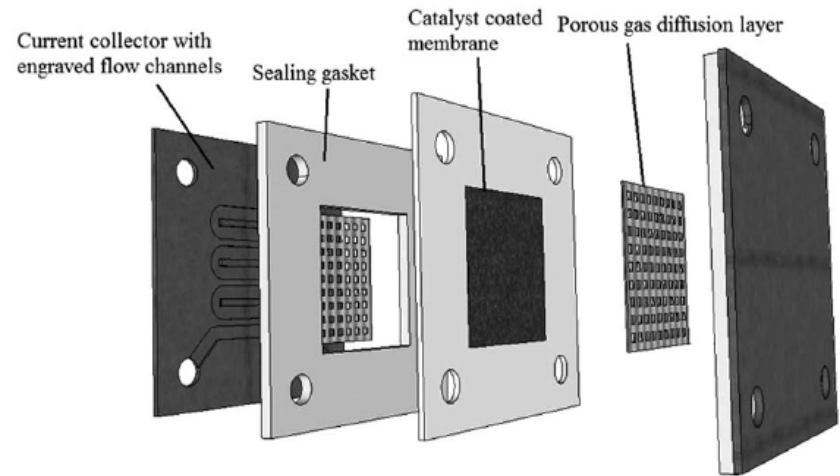


Fig. 9 Cell components for the catalyst coated membrane set-up. The catalyst is deposited directly onto the membrane, and the porous gas diffusion layers provide an electrical connection to the current collecting plate, whilst permitting the removal of produced gases.

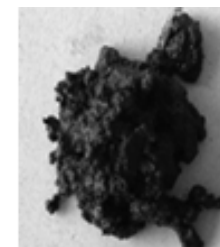
- Catalyst coated substrate (CCS) design eliminates the need for gas diffusion layers
- Bipolar plates (current collectors) with integrated flow fields, provide:
  - 1) path for electrolyte (in and out)
  - 2) efficient removal of product gases from the cell
  - 3) heat management

# Electrode Materials

**TABLE 1** | Comparison of HER Catalysts

Electrode	Performance	Conditions	References
Pt/C	0.6 mA cm <sup>-2</sup> exchange current density	0.1 M KOH, thin film	Ref 31
Polished Ni	422 mV overpotential at 75 A cm <sup>-2</sup>	0.5 M KOH, SCE, 3.14 mm <sup>2</sup> disk electrode	Ref 60
Cu/C	1.1 × 10 <sup>-2</sup> mA cm <sup>-2</sup> exchange current	0.1 M NaOH w/o ME nanoflakes	Ref 34
Ni <sub>1</sub> Co <sub>9</sub> /C	9.1 × 10 <sup>-3</sup> mA cm <sup>-2</sup> exchange current	0.1 M NaOH w/o ME nanoflakes	Ref 34
Raney Ni	100 mV overpotential at 500 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	28 wt% KOH, 80°C	Ref 47
Ni-Cr Raney	80 mV overpotential at 500 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	28 wt% KOH, 80°C	Ref 47
Ni <sub>64</sub> W <sub>36</sub>	1.6 × 10 <sup>-6</sup> mA cm <sup>-2</sup> exchange current density	0.1 M NaOH	Ref 51
MmNi <sub>3.3</sub> Co <sub>0.75</sub> Mn <sub>0.4</sub> Al <sub>0.27</sub>	88 mV overpotential at 200 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	Ni foam substrate and Ni-Mo coating, 30 wt% KOH	Ref 54
LaNi <sub>4.9</sub> Si <sub>0.1</sub>	84 mV overpotential at 200 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	Ni foam substrate and Ni-Mo coating, 30 wt% KOH	Ref 54
Ti <sub>2</sub> Ni	60 mV overpotential at 200 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	Ni foam substrate and Ni-Mo coating, 30 wt% KOH	Refs 12 and 54
Ni <sub>60</sub> Mo <sub>40</sub>	29 mA cm <sup>-2</sup> 59 mV overpotential at 250 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	30 wt% KOH, 70°C, nanocrystalline fcc, mechanical alloyed	Ref 62
Ni-S	39.2 mA cm <sup>-2</sup> 90 mV overpotential at 150 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	28 wt% NaOH, electrodeposited, thiourea	Ref 40
Fe-Mo	20.4 × 10 <sup>3</sup> mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	Fe(20%)-Mo(60%), 1 M NaOH, 25°C	Ref 57
Ni-(Ebonex-Ru)	597 mA cm <sup>-2</sup> 156 mV at 100 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	Ni-Ti <sub>4</sub> O <sub>7</sub> -Ru, 1 M NaOH at 25°C	Ref 63
Pd/Au	NA	Pd/Au(111)	Ref 56
Ni-Sn	NA	Alloy coating deposited on Ni mesh	Ref 64
Ni-S-Co	70 mV at 150 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	80°C, electrodeposition	Ref 41
Ni <sub>3</sub> Al	1.9 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	6 M KOH	Ref 36
Ni <sub>3</sub> Al-Mo	13 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	6 M KOH	Ref 37
Ni-S-Mn	97.5 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	30% KOH, amorphous alloy	Ref 43
Ni <sub>81</sub> P <sub>16</sub> C <sub>3</sub>	2.11 mA cm <sup>-2</sup> 125.4 mV at 250 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	1 M NaOH, 25°C	Ref 39
Ni <sub>62</sub> Fe <sub>35</sub> C <sub>3</sub>	24.5 mA cm <sup>-2</sup> 112.6 mV at 250 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	1 M NaOH, 25°C	Ref 65
Ni-Co	29 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	0.5 M NaOH, 25°C, electrodeposited	Ref 66
Fe <sub>34</sub> P <sub>4</sub> Ce <sub>2</sub>	0.075 mA cm <sup>-2</sup>	1 M NaOH, 25°C	Ref 45

Raney nickel is an alloy of aluminum and nickel, which has subsequently had much of the aluminum removed through a leaching process with sodium hydroxide (NaOH). The remaining alloy has a very high surface area and also contains hydrogen gas (H<sub>2</sub>) adsorbed on the nickel surface



## Raney Nickel (Ra-Ni)

Image from:  
<http://www.masterorganicchemistry.com/2011/09/30/reagent-friday-raney-nickel/>

# Membranes



Membrane	Ion Exchange Capacity	Conductivity (mS/cm)	Thickness	Cell Current Density† (mA/cm <sup>2</sup> )	Manufacturer	Ref.
Tokuyama A201	1.68 ± 0.08	40	28 μm	400 @1.8V	Tokuyama, (Japan)	Bodner et al., (2015) Ren et al., (2014)
Nafion 117	0.91	90.6	178 μm	n/a	DuPont (USA)	Ren et al., (2014)
<i>m</i> -PBI poly(2,2-( <i>m</i> -phenylene)-5,5-bibenzimidazole)	n/a	100	50-60 μm	400 @2V	Danish Power Systems (Denmark), Advent (USA)	Kraglund et al., (2016)
Zirfon™ Perl UTP 500 (polyphenylene sulphide/zirconium oxide)		Ionic resistance ≤ 0.3 Ω.cm <sup>2</sup> at 30†	500 ± 50 μm	250 @2V	Agfa-Gevaert (Belgium)	
xxx						

† Assuming 30% KOH

# Membrane

**TABLE 2** | Comparison of Different AEMs for Alkaline Electrolysis Cells

Membrane	Conductivity	Current density	Cathode	Anode	High frequency resistance	Thickness	References
Zero gap diaphragm with 30 wt% KOH	$54.3 \times 10^{-2} / (\Omega\text{cm})$ at $25^\circ\text{C}^a$	$470 \text{ mA cm}^{-2}$ at $1.8 \text{ V}, 50^\circ\text{C}$	Mo/Raney Ni	$\text{Co}_3\text{O}_4/\text{Raney Ni}$	NA	NA	Refs 19, <sup>a</sup> 84
Tokuyama A201	$0.04 \text{ S cm}^{-1}$ at $23^\circ\text{C}^b$	$399 \text{ mA cm}^{-2}$ at $1.8 \text{ V}, 50^\circ\text{C}$	Pt black	$\text{IrO}_2$	$0.23 \Omega \text{ cm}^2$ at $2.0 \text{ V}, 50^\circ\text{C}$	$28 \mu\text{m}$	Refs 19, <sup>b</sup> 85
Selemon AMV	$2.52 \times 10^{-1} \text{ S cm}^{-1}$	$90 \text{ mA/cm}^{-2}$ at $2.0 \text{ V}, 30^\circ\text{C}$	Ni/Zn/S coated Ni foam	Graphene oxide-coated NiO	NA	$120 \mu\text{m}$	Ref 61
QAPS	$>10^{-2} \text{ S cm}^{-1}$	$0.4 \text{ A/cm}^{-2}$ at $1.8\text{--}1.85 \text{ V}, 70^\circ\text{C}$	Ni–Mo	Ni–Fe	NA	$70 \mu\text{m}$	Ref 48
qPVB/Cl	$2.7 \times 10^{-2} \text{ S cm}$ at $60^\circ\text{C}$	$250 \text{ mA cm}^{-2}$ at $2.24 \text{ V}, 55^\circ\text{C}$	Ni nano powder	$\text{Cu}_{0.7}\text{Co}_{2.3}\text{O}_4$	$0.37 \Omega \text{ cm}^2$ at $60^\circ\text{C}$	$70 \mu\text{m}$	Ref 81
QA-ETFE <sup>c</sup> , QPDTB ionomer	$138.7 \text{ mS cm}^{-1c}$ (ionomer: $0.059 \text{ S cm}^{-1}$ at $50^\circ\text{C}$ )	$100 \text{ mA cm}^{-2}$ at $1.9 \text{ V}, 22^\circ\text{C}$	Ni nanopowder	$\text{Cu}_{0.7}\text{Co}_{2.3}\text{O}_4$	$0.85 \Omega \text{ cm}^2$ at $22^\circ\text{C}$ full MEA resistance	$88.4 \mu\text{m}^c$	Refs 83, <sup>c</sup> 82
LDPE-g-VBC	$17 \text{ mS cm}^{-1}$ at $60^\circ\text{C}$	$300 \text{ mA cm}^{-2}$ at $2.1 \text{ V}, 45^\circ\text{C}^{**}$	NA	NA	$0.3\text{--}0.43 \Omega \text{ cm}^2$ at $45^\circ\text{C}$	NA	Ref 80

<sup>\*\*</sup>Data was taken from a diagram, since the values were not stated within the text.

\* This table is copied from Bodner et al., 2015

# PBI-based Membrane - Preliminary



## BOM- 1<sup>st</sup> Generation Monomers

Materials	Suppliers	Price
Pyridine dicarboxylic acids (2,4-, 2,5-, 2,6- and 3,5-PDA)	Sigma-Aldrich Chemical Co. <b>Matrix Scientific</b> Alpha Aeser Chemical Co.	\$126 for 100mg <b>\$91 for 25 g</b> \$212 for 500 g
3,3',4,4'-Tetraaminobiphenyl (TAB)	Sigma-Aldrich Chemical Co. <b>TCI America</b> Tetra-Hedron	\$250 for 25 g <b>\$126 for 25 g</b> \$380 for 100 g
Polyphosphoric acid (115%) (PPA)	Sigma-Aldrich Chemical Co.	\$60 for 1 kg
Ammonia Hydroxide	Sigma-Aldrich Chemical Co.	\$340 for 6X2.5L
Distilled water	Sigma-Aldrich Chemical Co.	
Phosphoric Acid (Conc. 85% for doping)	Duda Energy	\$40 per gallon
Dimethylacetamide (DMAc)	Sigma-Aldrich Chemical Co. Alpha Aeser Chemical Co.	\$542 for 6L \$82.5 for 2.5L



# Manufacturing of PBI-based Membrane

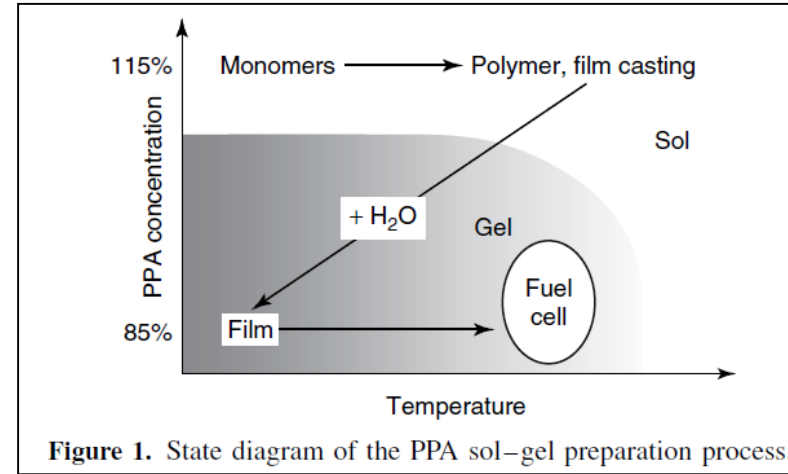
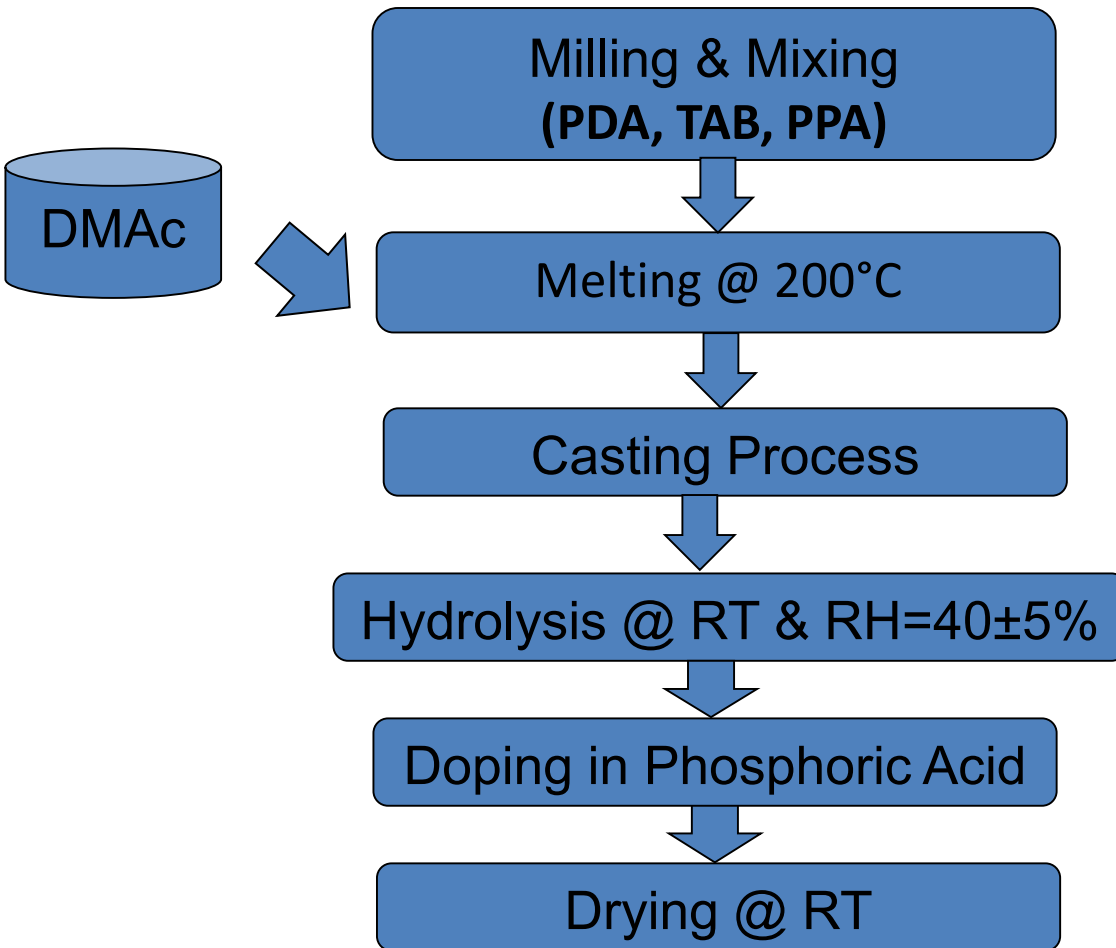
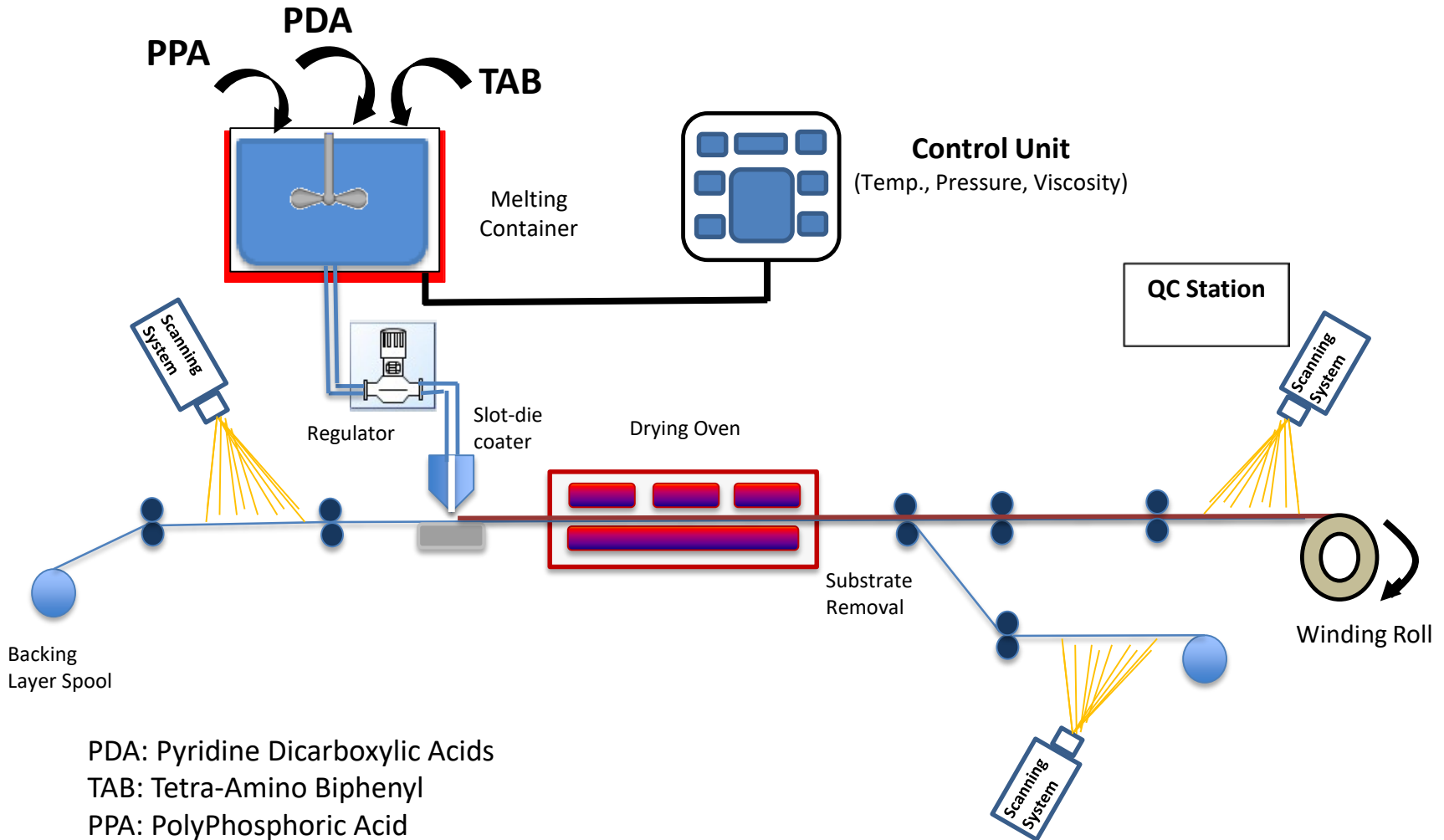


Figure 1. State diagram of the PPA sol-gel preparation process.

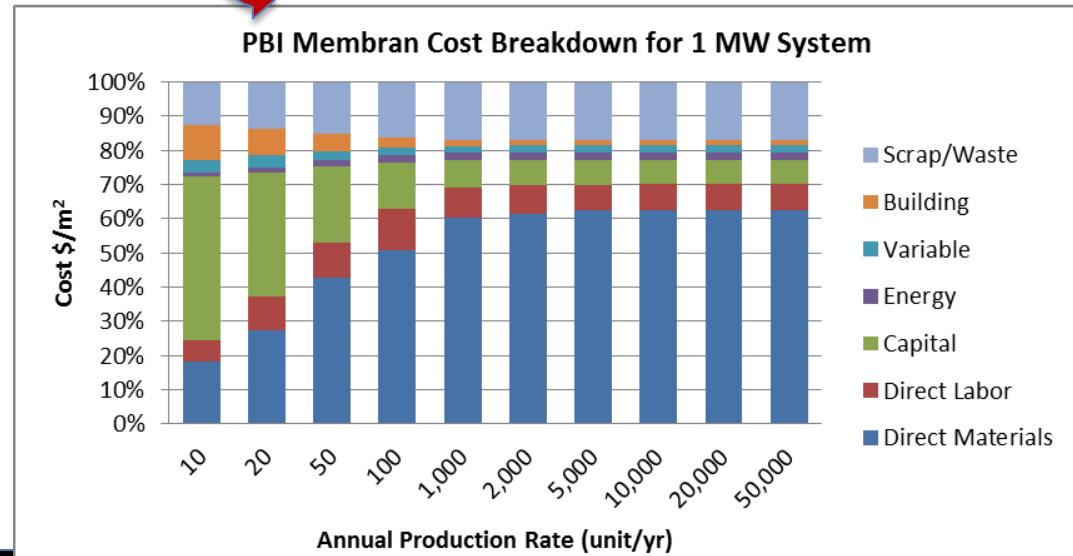
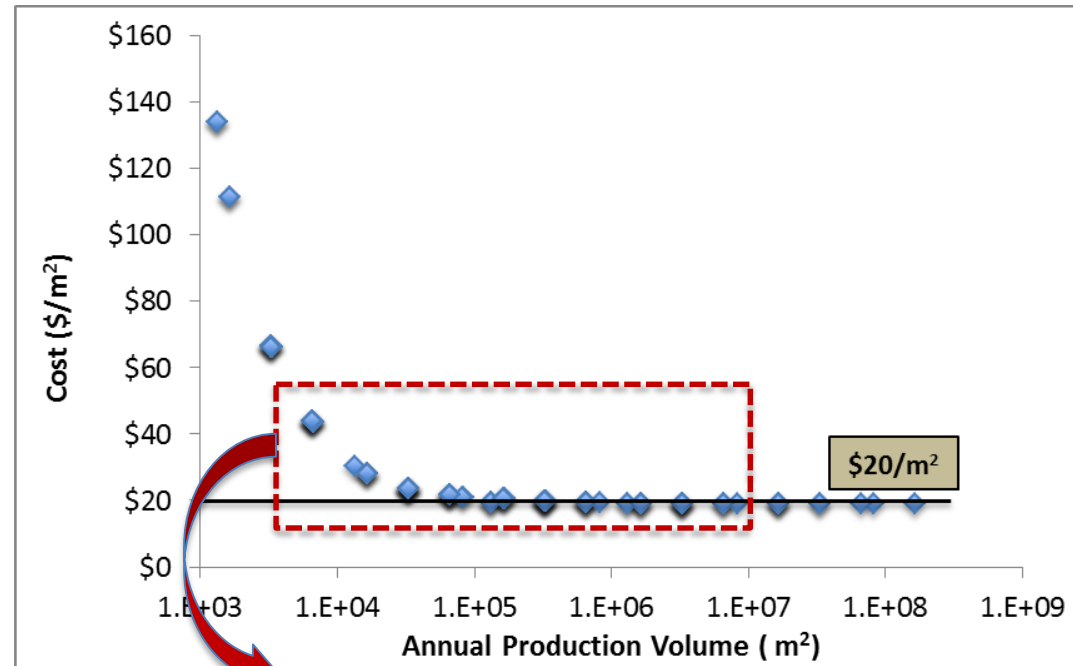
Image from Xiao et al., 2005

# Casting Process



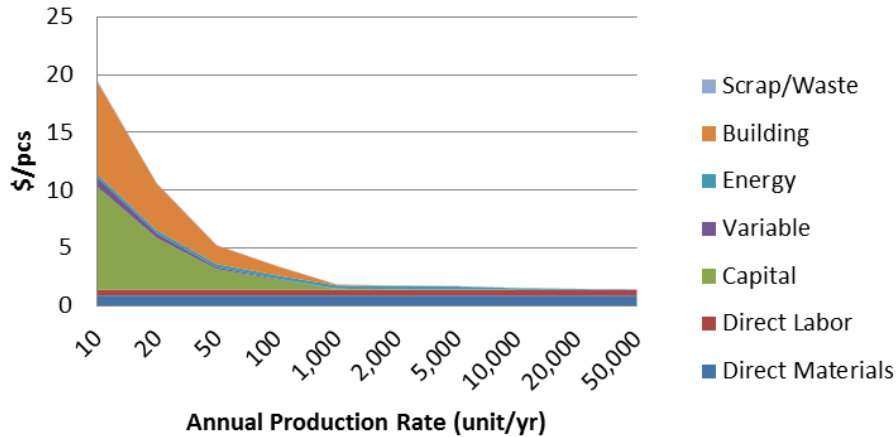
# BPI Membrane Cost Analysis- Preliminary

- Bill-of materials based on 1<sup>st</sup> generation materials (Xiao et al., 2003).
- Cost includes capital, building, operational, labor, material and scrap cost components.

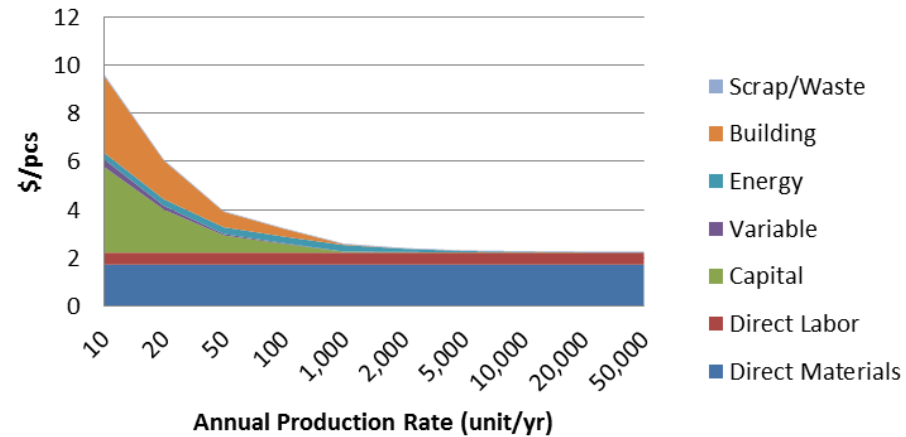


# Nickel Bipolar Plates

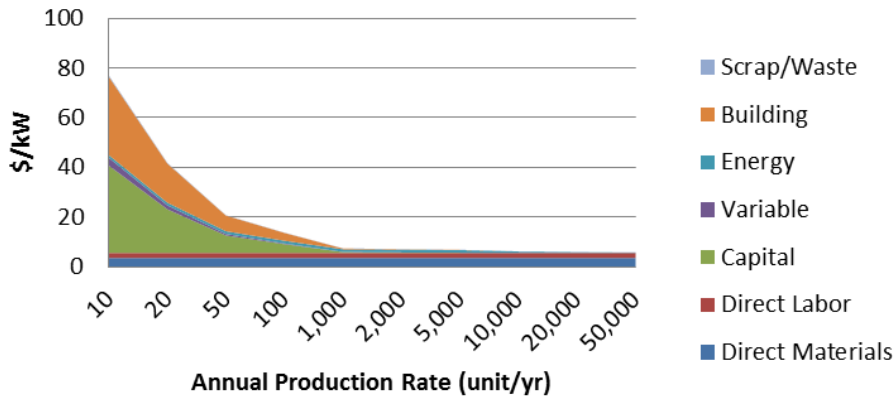
**Nickel Bipolar Plate Cost (\$/pcs)  
200 kW system**



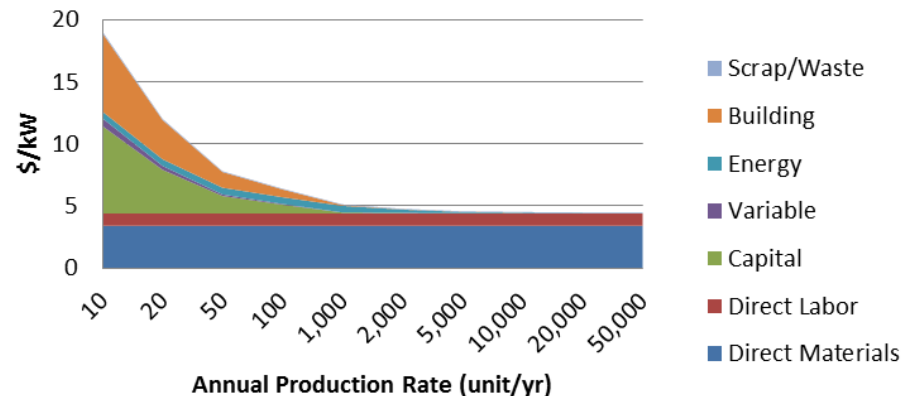
**Nickel Bipolar Plate Cost (\$/pcs)  
1 MW system**



**Nickel Bipolar Plate Cost (\$/kW)  
200 kW system**



**Nickel Bipolar Plate Cost (\$/kW)  
1 MW system**

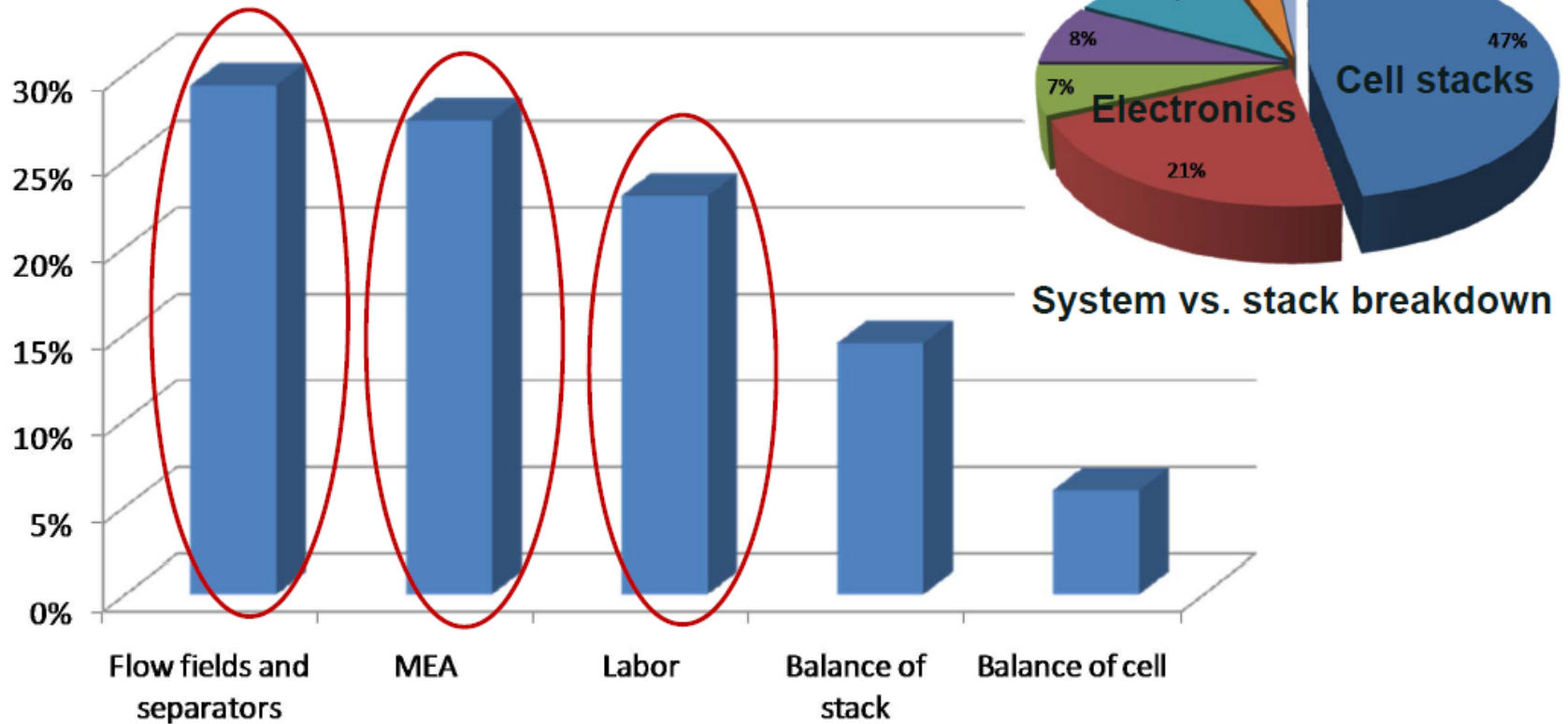


48 kg/day

240 kg/day

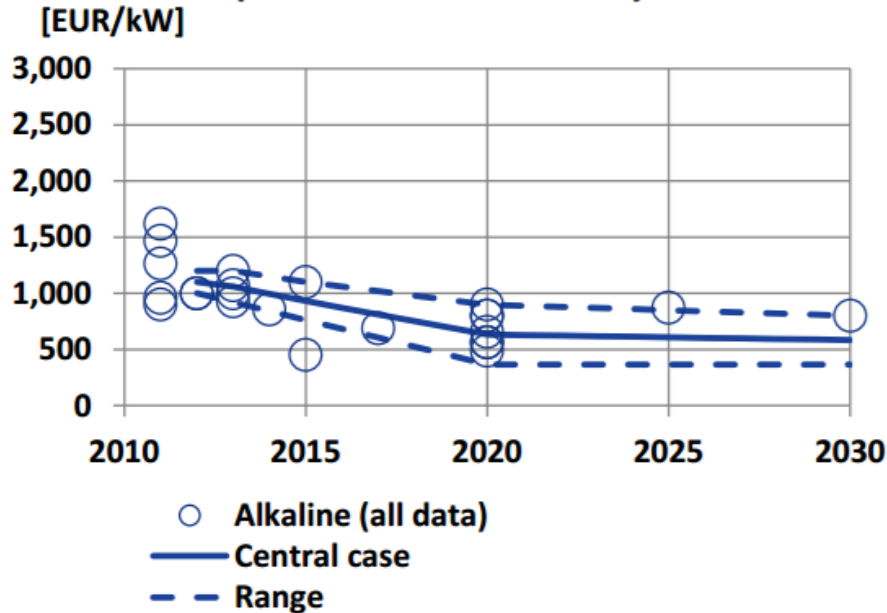
# Historical Cost Breakdown

- Flow field, membrane electrode assembly, and labor are high impact cost areas
- Catalyst represents ~6% of total cost

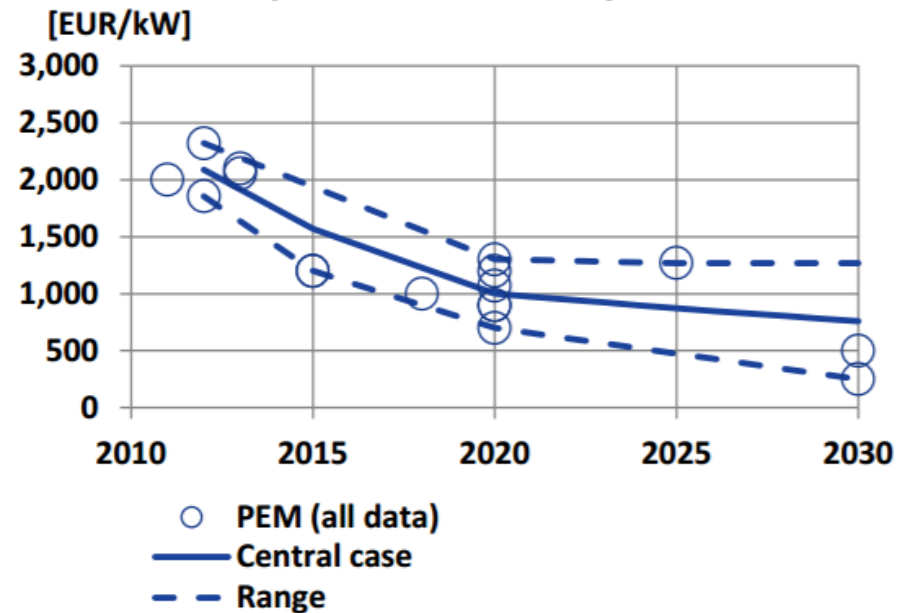


# PEM and Alkaline Electrolyzer Capital Cost

## Capital cost for Alkaline systems



## Capital cost for PEM systems



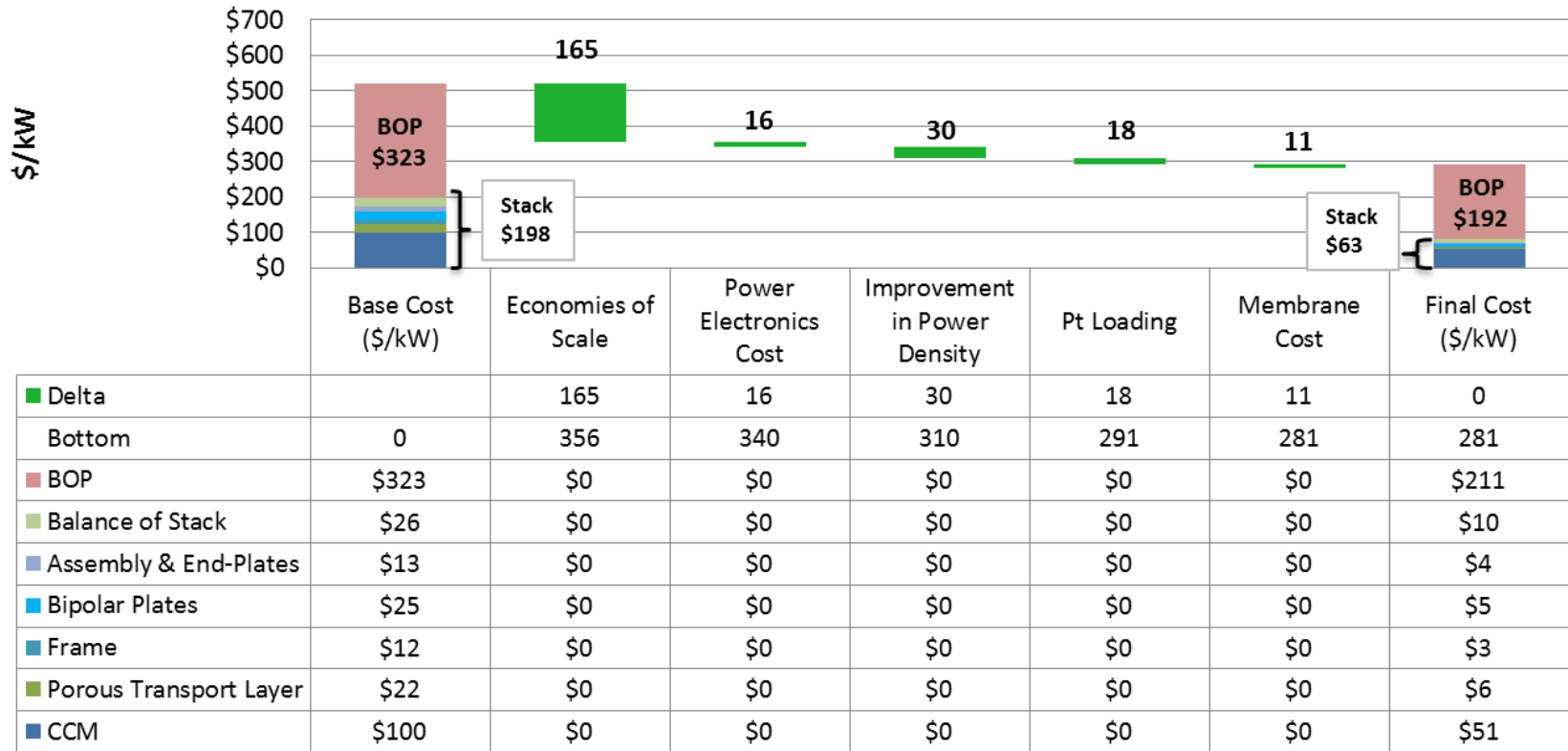
System cost <sup>(1)</sup>			Today	2015	2020	2025	2030
EUR/kW	Alkaline	Central	<b>1,100</b>	<b>930</b>	<b>630</b>	<b>610</b>	<b>580</b>
		Range	1,000 - 1,200	760 - 1,100	370 - 900	370 - 850	370 - 800
	PEM	Central	<b>2,090</b>	<b>1,570</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>760</b>
		Range	1,860 - 2,320	1,200 - 1,940	700 - 1,300	480 - 1,270	250 - 1,270

<sup>(1)</sup> incl. power supply, system control, gas drying (purity above 99.4%). Excl. grid connection, external compression, external purification and hydrogen storage

# Waterfall Chart – Capital Cost



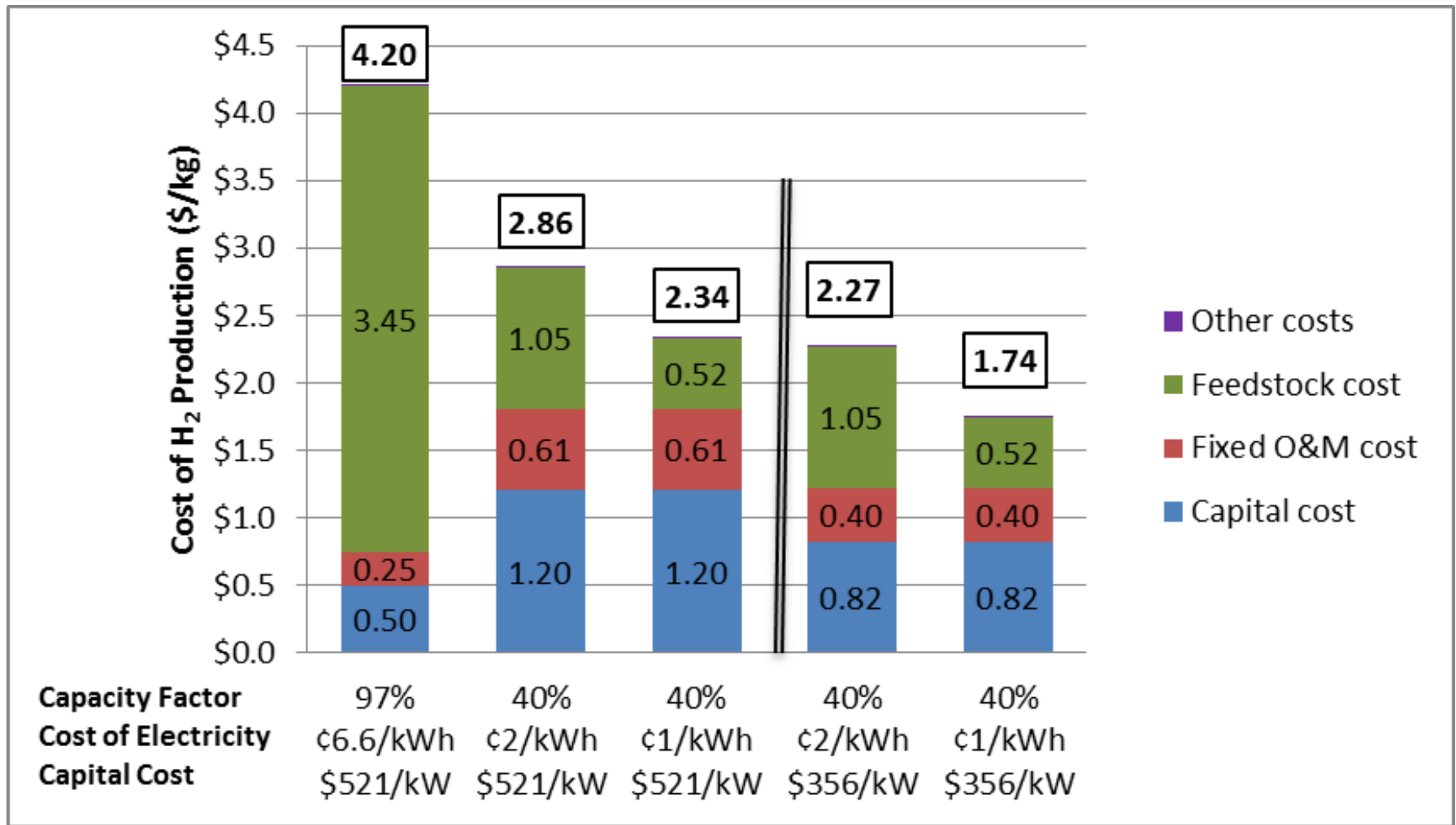
## Potential Cost Reductions in PEM Electrolyzer Cost



- Assumptions:

- Economies of scale: cost of producing 100 unit/yr vs. 10 units/yr
- Power electronics : 10% cost reduction
- Improvement in power density: +20% (from 2.91 W/cm<sup>2</sup> to 3.50 W/cm<sup>2</sup>)
- Pt loading: reducing PGM loading from 11 g/m<sup>2</sup> to 5 g/m<sup>2</sup>
- Membrane cost: 20% cost reduction

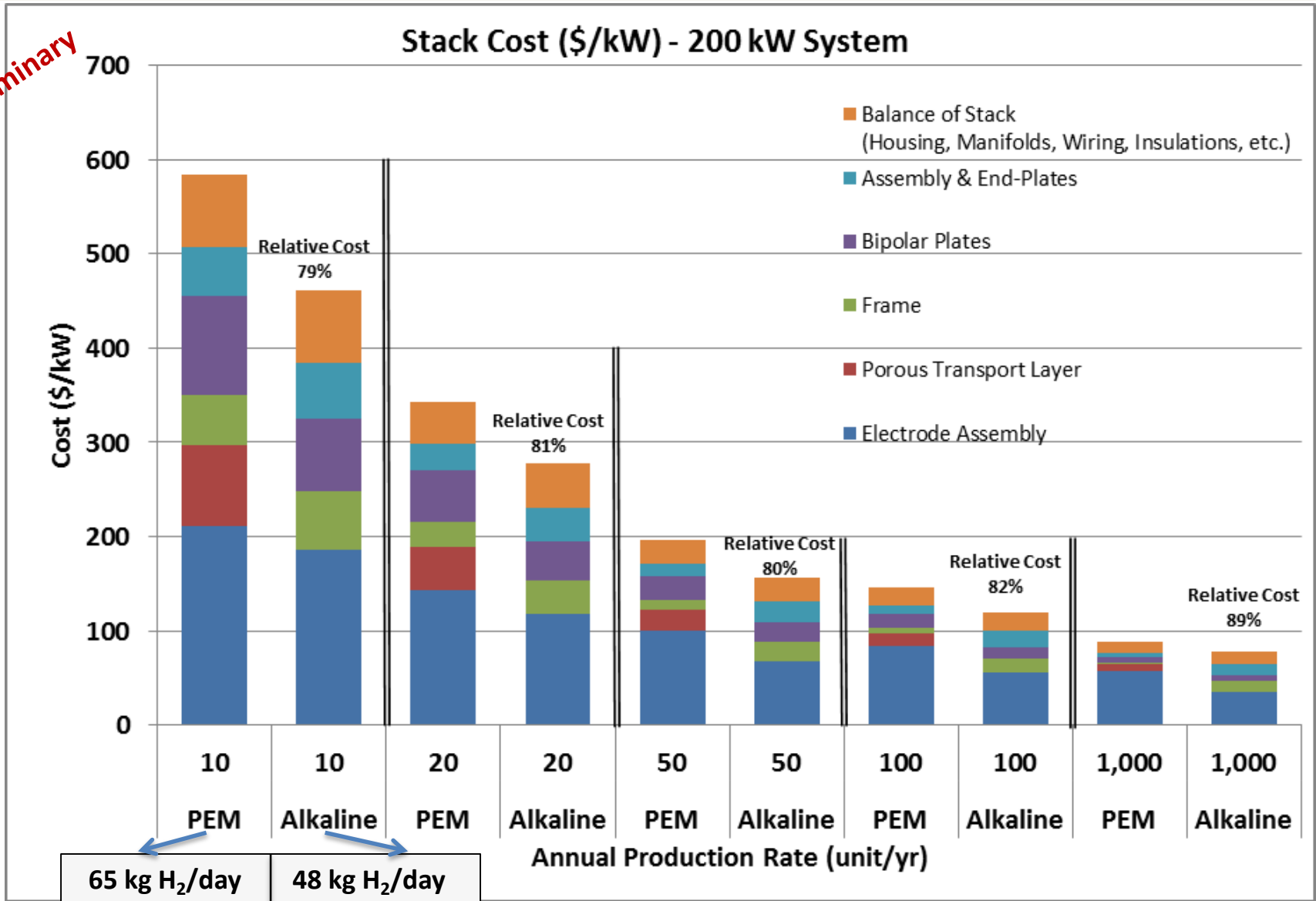
# Effect of Electrolyzer Capital Cost on H<sub>2</sub> Cost





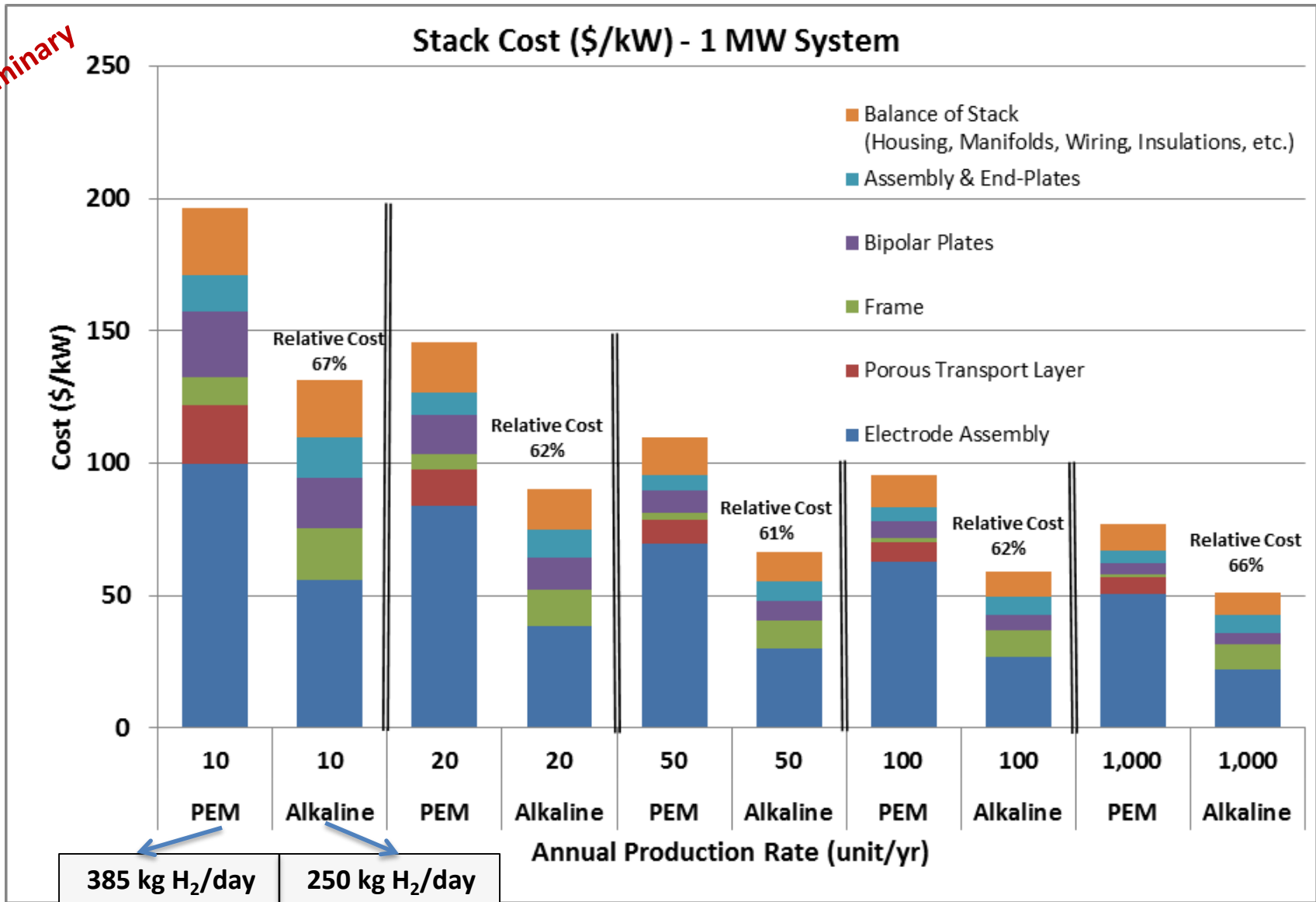
# Comparative Cost Analysis (Stack Only)

Preliminary



# Comparative Cost Analysis (Stack Only)

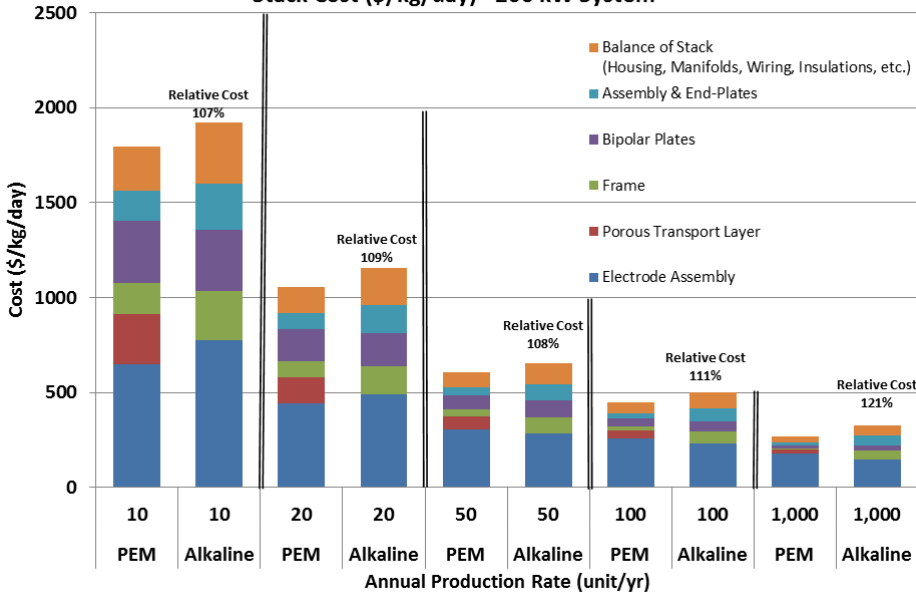
Preliminary



# Alkaline vs. PEM Electrolyzer



Stack Cost (\$/kg/day) - 200 kW System



- Alkaline electrolyzer stacks have larger cost in \$/kg-H<sub>2</sub> basis and in \$/kW basis

Stack Cost (\$/kg/day) - 1 MW System

